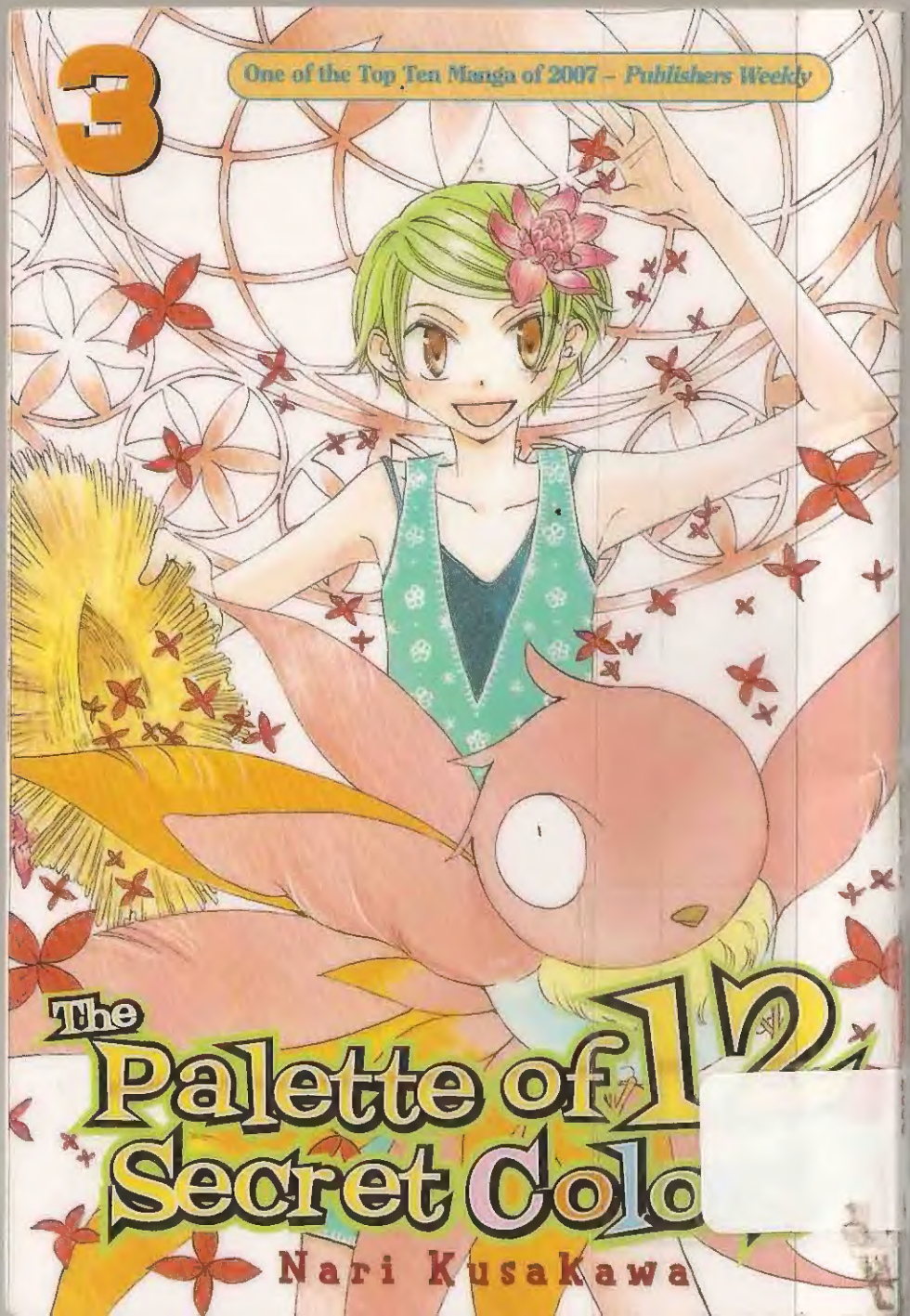
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Secret Colo
Nari Kusakawa

Is Cello orders from a bird?

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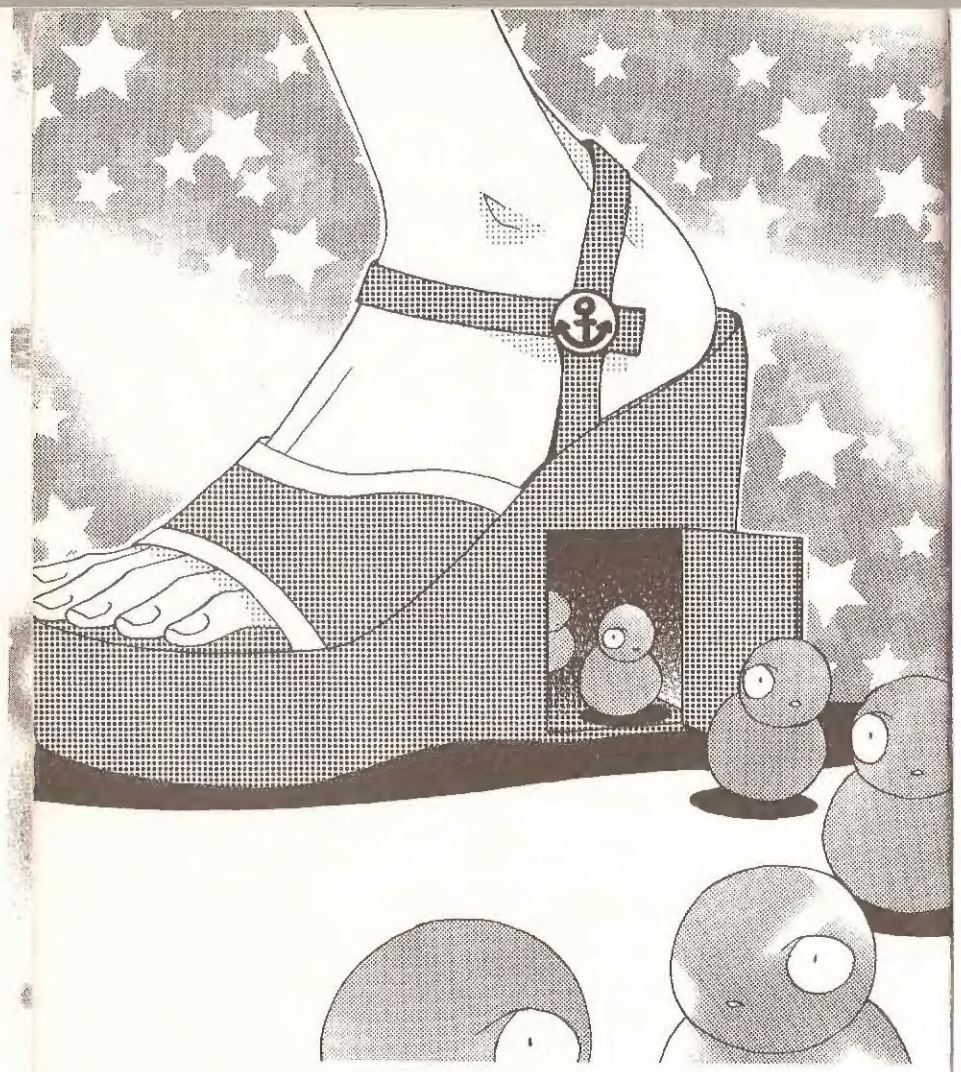

The Palette of 12 Secret Colors

Volume 3

By Nari Kusakawa

十二秋色のパレット

じゅうにひそく

The Palette of 12 Secret Colors

だいわ

EPISODE 7

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MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
THERE! LIVELY ONCE MORE!
I'M MOVED, THE WAY THEY DIG INTO THOSE FLOWERS WITH GUSTO... ESPECIALLY THAT BIRD WITH THE LONG NECK.
SIGH...
SOMETIMES, A WICKED YOUNG GIRL.
MUNCH
OH, OLGA LOVES HER PALETTE PARTNER.
SHE'LL EAT AS MANY FLOWERS AS IT TAKES TO BECOME EVEN JUST A LITTLE MORE BEAUTIFUL FOR HIM. SHE'S GOT THE MIND OF A YOUNG GIRL, YOU SEE.
HEH-HEH...
I BELIEVE THIS ONE IS ALSO PARTICULARLY CLOSE TO HIS PALETTE PARTNER.
BUT I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG?
LOOK, HERE ARE PINK FLOWERS THAT MATCH YOUR FEATHERS.
WHAT'S WRONG, YOYO?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO EAT?
OH!

HELLO, FLORIST HERE!
I'VE BROUGHT BRIGHT ORANGE CANNA, PURPLE PASSIONFLOWERS AND PINK-CENTERED BOUGAINVILLEAS...
HAVE A LOOK AT WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE AVIARY, WHERE THE BIRDS WAIT FOR THE NEW TERM TO START TOMORROW.
RUMBLE
RUSTLE
...EXACTLY AS ORDERED.
WELL, DON'T THEY LOOK FRESH!
ALL OF THE BIRDS HAVE BEEN BLUE DURING THE BREAK SINCE THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SEE THE PALETTES VERY MUCH...
...BUT I'M SURE EATING THESE WILL RAISE THEIR SPIRITS...
RUMBLE
THE REMOTE ISLAND OF OPAL IN THE SOUTH SEAS...
...IS HOME TO BOTH THE BIRDS WITH THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL FEATHERS...
...AND "PALETTES," OR COLOR MAGICIANS.

CERTAINLY!
I'LL TAKE A NOTEBOOK.
YOU'RE LUCKY.
PERFECT TIMING.
A NEW SHIPMENT OF OUR POPULAR POLKA-DOT NOTEBOOKS JUST CAME IN A FEW MINUTES AGO. CUTE, AREN'T THEY?
BUZZ
MAYBE HE MISSES ME SO MUCH, HE'S SOBBING.
AS IF...
BUZZ
I'LL SEE YOU SOON, THOUGH, YOYO. RIGHT NOW, I'M LOOKING FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR THE NEW TERM.
I'LL TAKE THIS ONE...
YEP!
AH! THEY'RE ADORABLE! ♡
THEY USUALLY SELL OUT THE SAME DAY THEY COME IN!

GLANCE ...
GLANCE
?
I WONDER WHAT YOYO'S DOING NOW.
AHHH, LAST DAY OF VACATION...

1

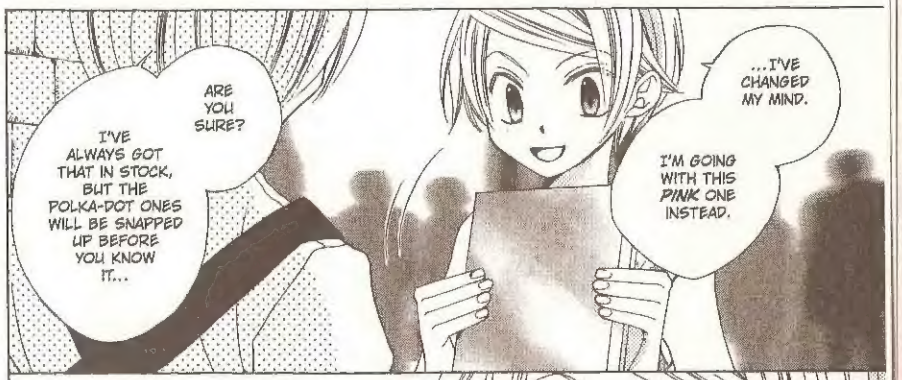
HELLO.
THANK YOU FOR PICKING UP VOLUME 3 OF THE *PALETTE OF 12 SECRET COLORS.*

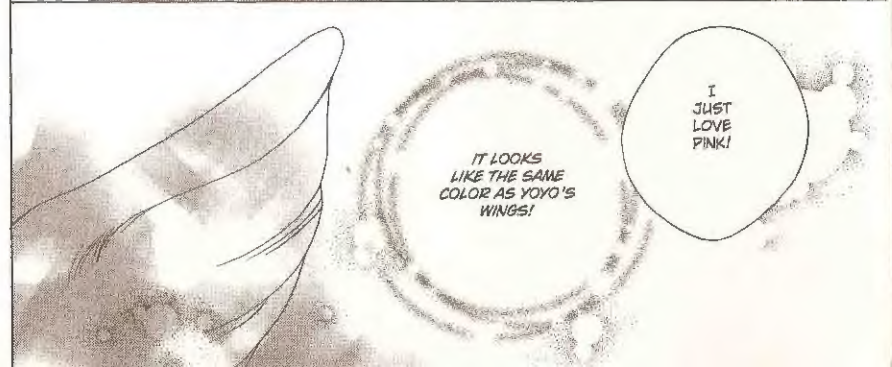
THERE ARE 11 COLUMN SPACES THIS TIME AROUND! I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE MY OWN EYES.
THAT'S ENOUGH COLUMNS FOR EACH MEMBER OF A SOCCER TEAM TO USE TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF. OR THE PLAYERS ON A BASEBALL TEAM, INCLUDING THE COACH.
IT'S GONNA BE TOUGH FILLING ALL THESE COLUMNS.
USUALLY, I LOOK FOR TOPICS THAT ARE AT LEAST MARGINALLY-RELATED TO THE STORIES, BUT I THINK THIS TIME, I'LL WRITE ABOUT WHATEVER CROSSES MY MIND.

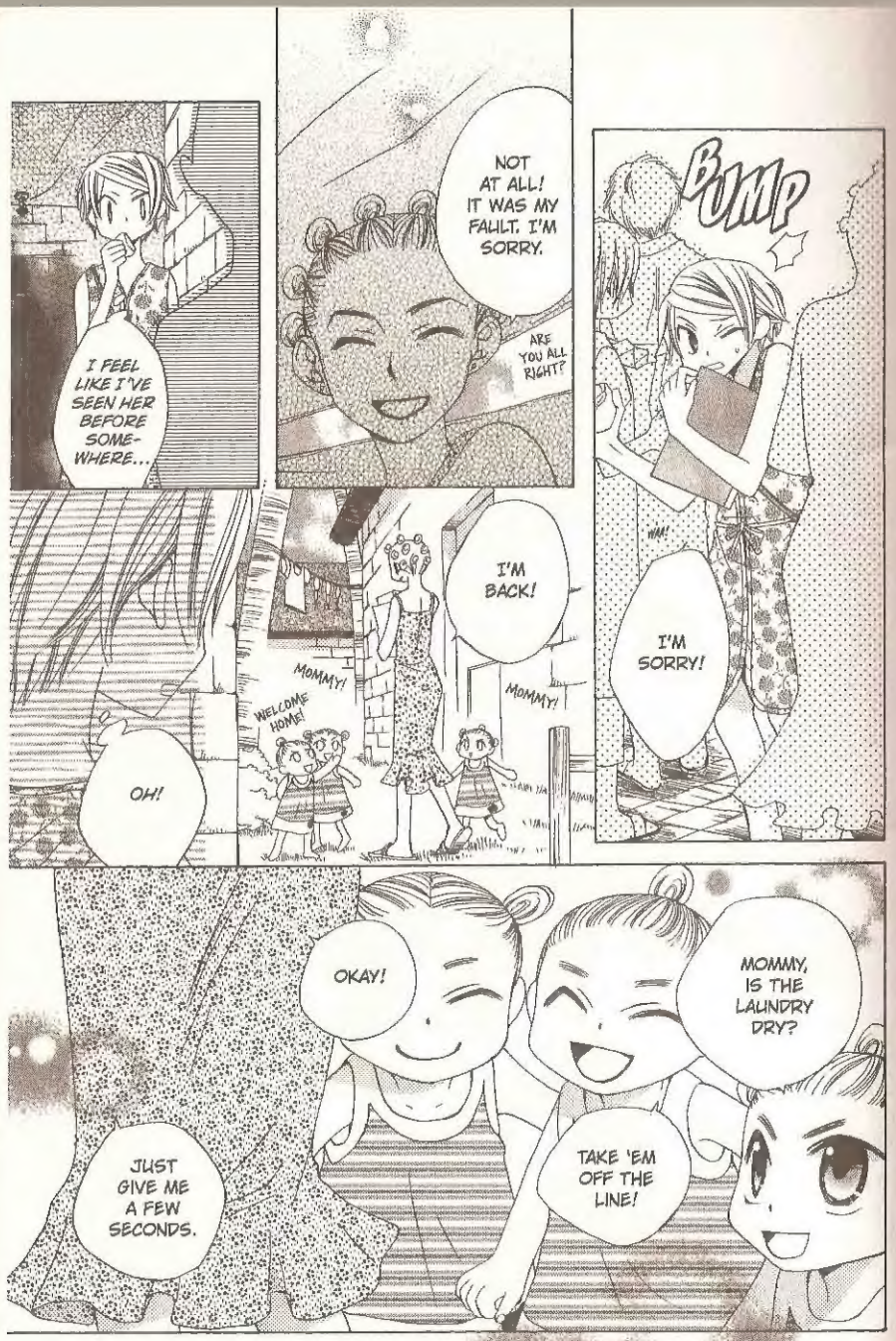
I KNOW...

...YOYO'S NOT FLAT LIKE THIS.

HE'S MORE...


I'VE ALWAYS GOT THAT IN STOCK, BUT THE POLKA-DOT ONES WILL BE SNAPPED UP BEFORE YOU KNOW IT...
ARE YOU SURE?
...I'VE CHANGED MY MIND.
I'M GOING WITH THIS *PINK* ONE INSTEAD.

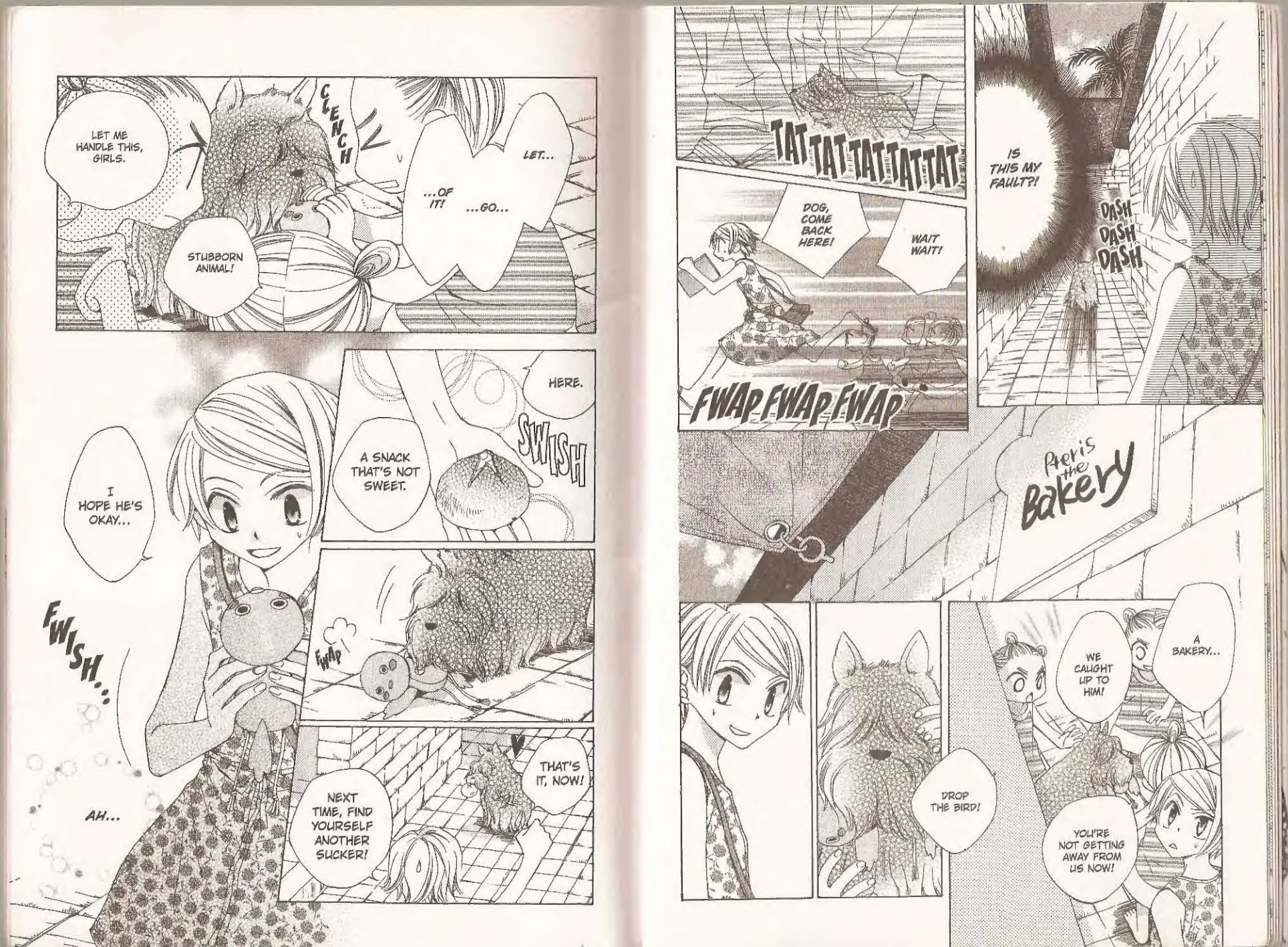



I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN HER BEFORE SOME-WHERE...
NOT AT ALL! IT WAS MY FAULT. I'M SORRY.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
BUMP
I'M SORRY!
I'M BACK!
MOMMY!
WELCOME HOME!
MOMMY!
OH!
OKAY!
MOMMY, IS THE LAUNDRY DRY?
JUST GIVE ME A FEW SECONDS.
TAKE 'EM OFF THE LINE!

...IS LIKE THESE FRESHLY BAKED BUNS.
HIS ROUND SHAPE...
ONE, PLEASE.
ARE YOU GONNA BUY SOMETHING OR NOT?
AND BUNS ARE, OF COURSE, BUNS...
...WHICH MAKES ME FEEL A LITTLE BIT LIKE HE'S NEAR ME.
...BUT LOOKING AT THESE THINGS REMINDS ME OF HIM...
MUNCH
NOTE-BOOKS ARE NOTE-BOOKS.
DOGS ARE DOGS.

TAT TAT TAT TAT TAT
CHO
MP!!
EH?
HUH? DR. CELLO?
GIVE US BACK OUR BIRD!
THAT DOG!
HEY...!
GLANCE
AH!
WHIZZZ
EH?

STUFFED ANIMALS!
HUH!
WHINE...
HURRY! HURRY!
DANGLE
WHINE
WHINE
THAT DOG...
...FROM BEFORE!
SNAP
WHOOPS!
FOOP
GO MOOCH SOMEWHERE ELSE.
WHAT, YOU WANT MY BUN?
IT'S SWEET, SO IT'D BE POISON FOR YOU.

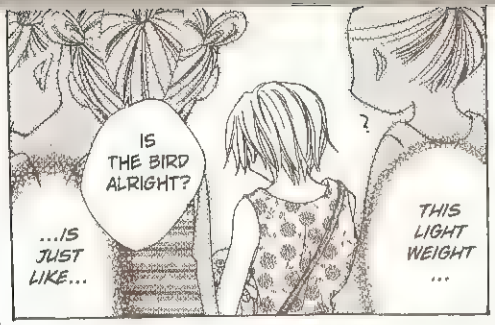

LET ME HANDLE THIS, GIRLS.
CLENCH
STUBBORN ANIMAL!
LET...
...OF IT!
...GO...
HERE.
SWISH
A SNACK THAT'S NOT SWEET.
I HOPE HE'S OKAY...
FWISH...
FWAP
AH...
THAT'S IT, NOW!
NEXT TIME, FIND YOURSELF ANOTHER SUCKER!
TAT TAT TAT TAT TAT
DOG, COME BACK HERE!
WAIT WAIT!
FWAP FWAP FWAP
IS THIS MY FAULT?!
DASH DASH DASH
Paris the Bakery
DROP THE BIRD!
WE CAUGHT UP TO HIM!
A BAKERY...
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY FROM US NOW!

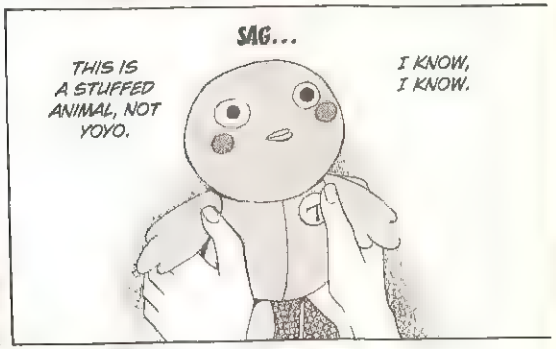
DOING THIS MAKES ME FEEL LIKE THERE'S LESS DISTANCE BETWEEN US.
CELLO ...
THAT'S
CALM DOWN...
FIVE MINUTES!
JUST LET ME BORROW IT FOR FIVE MINUTES!

AND I THINK IT'S AN ACUTE CASE.
I CONCUR.
MOSS: LONG TIME NO SEE

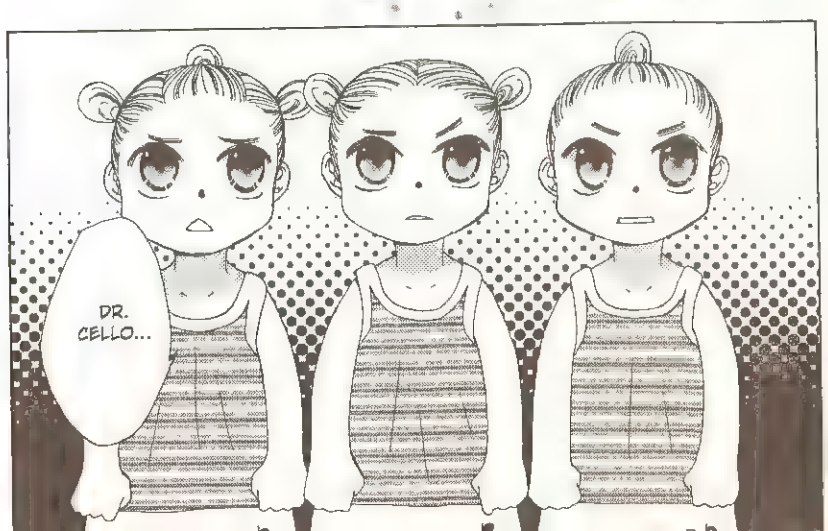
COINCIDENCE? RUNNING INTO YOU HERE, DOCTOR.
MORE LIKE "SICK IN THE HEAD"...
I WOULDN'T CALL THAT BEING "HOMESICK".

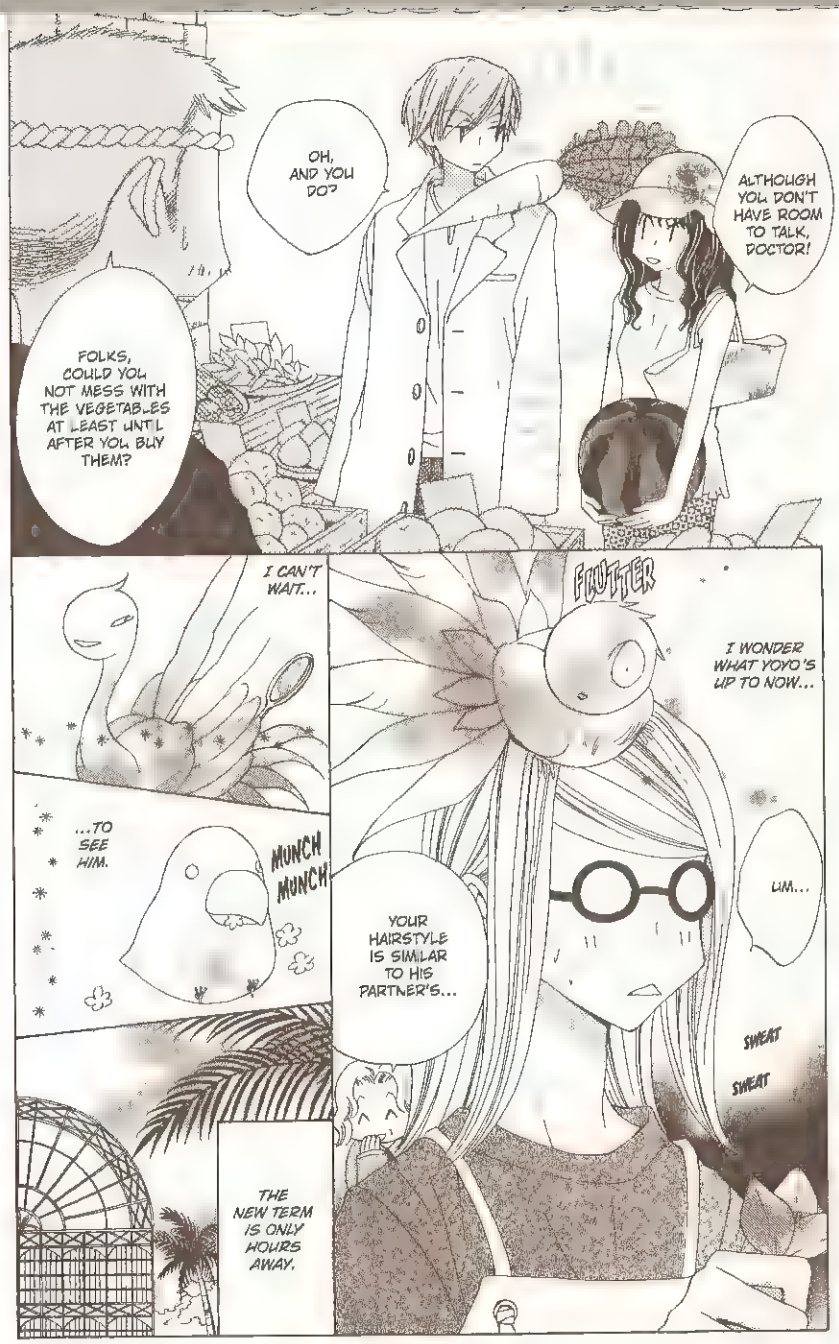
A STUFFED ANIMAL IS JUST A STUFFED ANIMAL...
...BUT...
FIDGET FIDGET


IS THE BIRD ALRIGHT?
...IS JUST LIKE...
THIS LIGHT WEIGHT ...


SIGH...
THIS IS A STUFFED ANIMAL, NOT YOYO.
I KNOW, I KNOW.

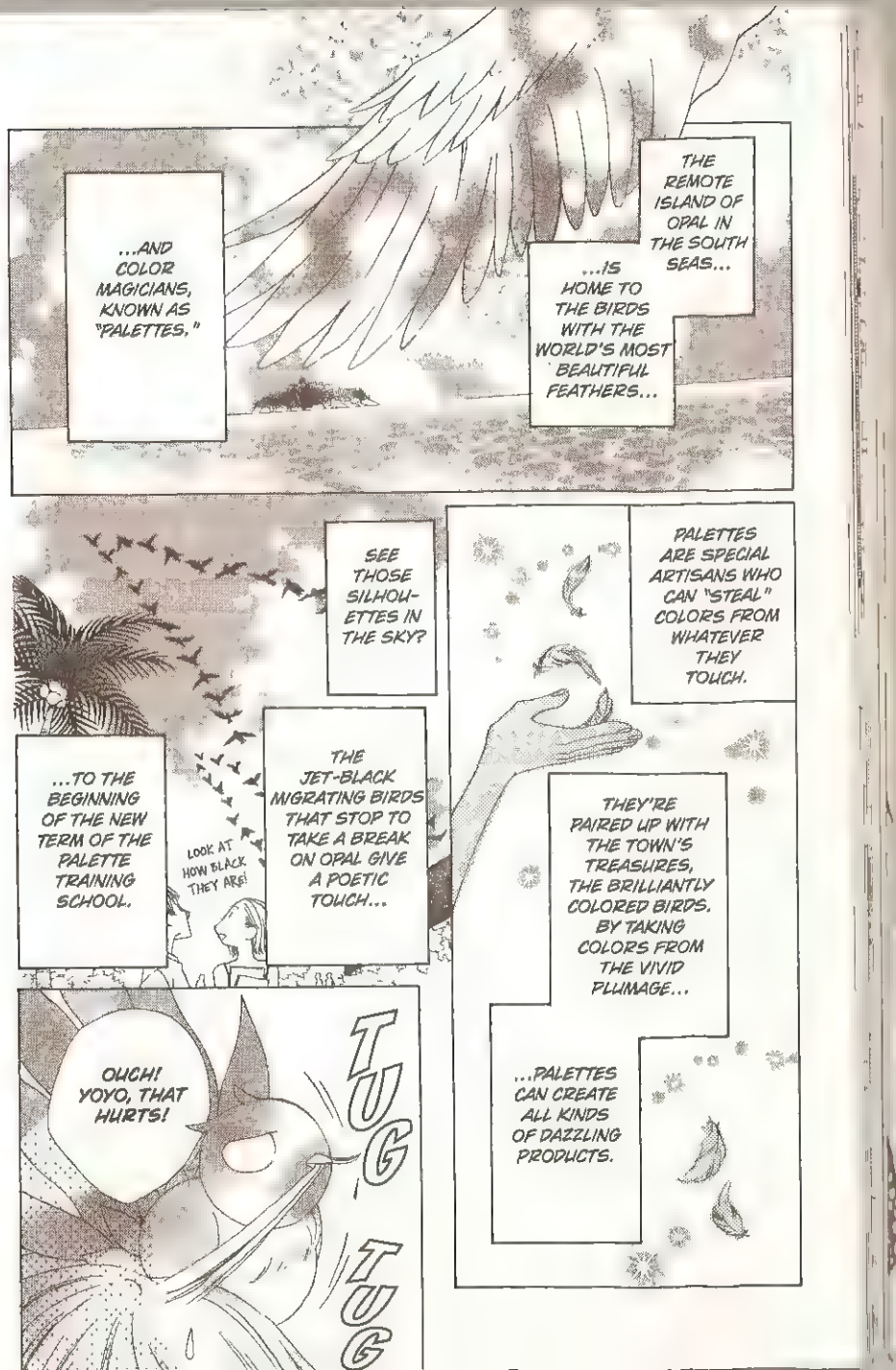
...IT'S WEIRD...


DR. CELLO...


OH, AND YOU DO?
ALTHOUGH YOU DON'T HAVE ROOM TO TALK, DOCTOR!
FOLKS, COULD YOU NOT MESS WITH THE VEGETABLES AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER YOU BUY THEM?
I CAN'T WAIT...
...TO SEE HIM.
MUNCH MUNCH
THE NEW TERM IS ONLY HOURS AWAY.
FRUITIER
I WONDER WHAT YOYO'S UP TO NOW...
YOUR HAIRSTYLE IS SIMILAR TO HIS PARTNER'S...
UM...
SWEAT
SWEAT

EPISODE 7: THE END

I'M CELLO AND RIGHT NOW, I'M BUMMED OUT AT HAVING TO GO TO THE INFIRMARY SO SOON AFTER COMING BACK.
HOK HOK!
EXCUSE ME...
KA-CHA
TUG
WITH THE LONG BREAK...
...I FORGOT HOW TO ADJUST THE DEGREE OF COLOR!
I'M RUSTY! I'M SORRY!
EH?
DR. GUEL...
CELLO...

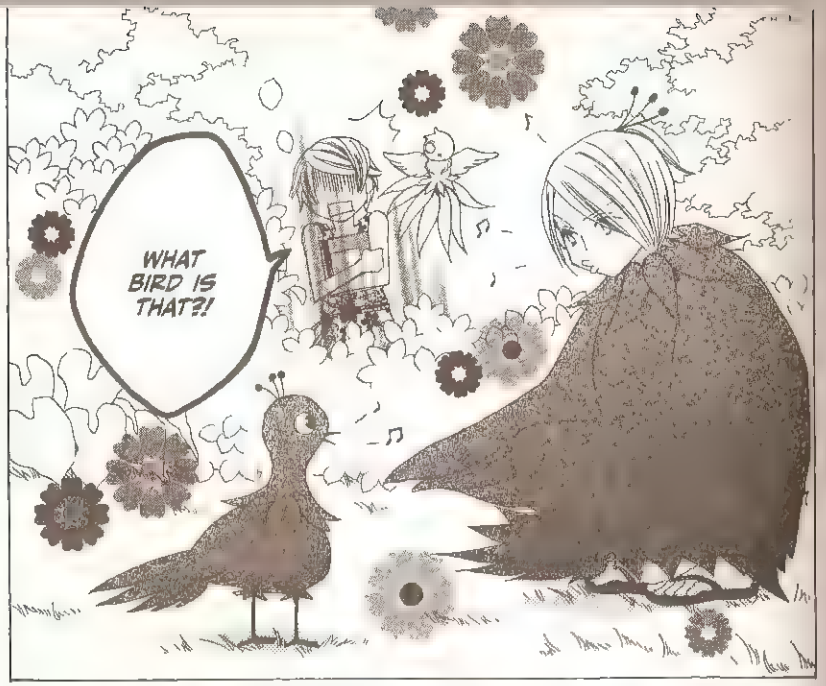

...AND COLOR MAGICIANS, KNOWN AS "PALETTES."
...IS HOME TO THE BIRDS WITH THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL FEATHERS...
THE REMOTE ISLAND OF OPAL IN THE SOUTH SEAS...
SEE THOSE SILHOUETTES IN THE SKY?
PALETTES ARE SPECIAL ARTISANS WHO CAN "STEAL" COLORS FROM WHATEVER THEY TOUCH.
...TO THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW TERM OF THE PALETTE TRAINING SCHOOL.
THE JET-BLACK MIGRATING BIRDS THAT STOP TO TAKE A BREAK ON OPAL GIVE A POETIC TOUCH...
LOOK AT HOW BLACK THEY ARE!
THEY'RE PAIRED UP WITH THE TOWN'S TREASURES, THE BRILLIANTLY COLORED BIRDS. BY TAKING COLORS FROM THE VIVID PLUMAGE...
...PALETTES CAN CREATE ALL KINDS OF DAZZLING PRODUCTS.
OUCH! YOYO, THAT HURTS!
TUG
TUG

OF COURSE I KNOW THAT.
CREAK
YOU MAY ALREADY REALIZE THIS...
BUT I HAVE A PLAN TO GET OUT OF MY SLUMP, DOCTOR.
SEE YOU 'ROUND, REPEATER.
...BUT THE REASON YOU'RE FAILING IS YOUR OWN NEGATIVE ATTITUDE.
I WANT TO RETURN THE COLOR TO THE BIRD'S WINGS...
I DON'T CONSIDER THE BIRD THEY PUT ME WITH...
...BUT YOU DIDN'T BRING YOUR PARTNER WITH YOU?
HMMM...
...MY PARTNER.
AH!
NO...
DURING THE BREAK, HIS BIRD PARTNER DIED OF A DISEASE.
HELLO, DO YOU KNOW FENNE?
CLICK
REPEATER!!

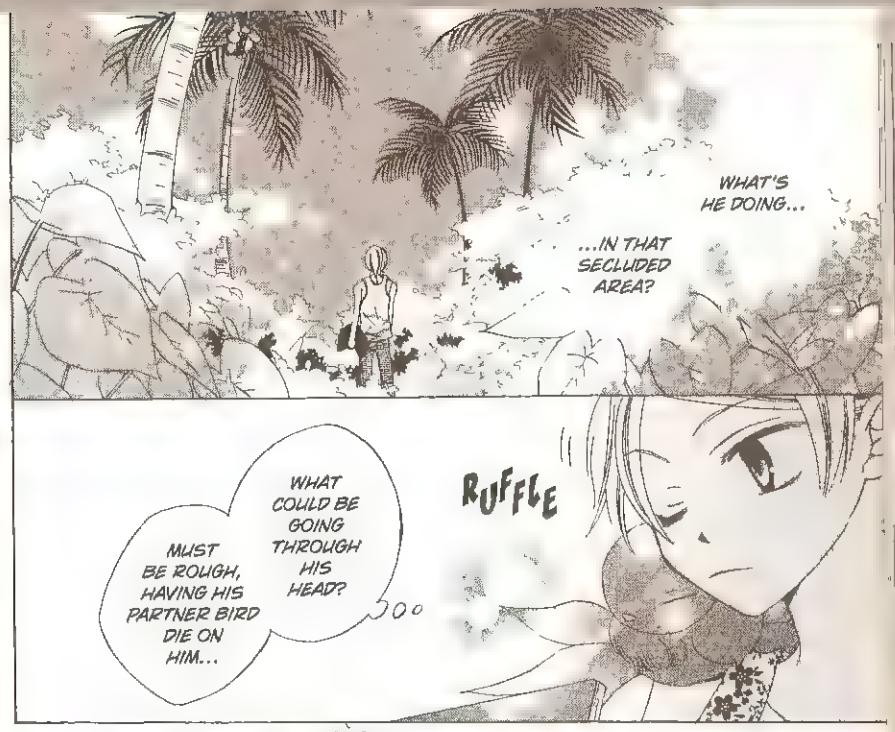
I KNOW...
...ABOUT YOU.
HEH!
EH?
UM... RIGHT.
FOR SOMEONE ON HER SECOND TIME AROUND...
YOU'RE THE REPEATER IN THE CLASS NEXT TO MINE!
AND BEING HERE MEANS YOU'RE STILL SCREWING UP?
IF YOU WANT ME TO SIPHON AWAY THE COLOR YOU SPILLED ON YOURSELF...
...TODAY, YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT YOUR TURN.
WOW
THAT'S UNUSUAL...
KA-CHING!
I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR!!
I...
WHO IS THIS BOY, ANYWAY?!
IN A WAY, IT'S INCREDIBLE!
THANKS.
OKAY.
YOU'RE ALL SET, FENNE.

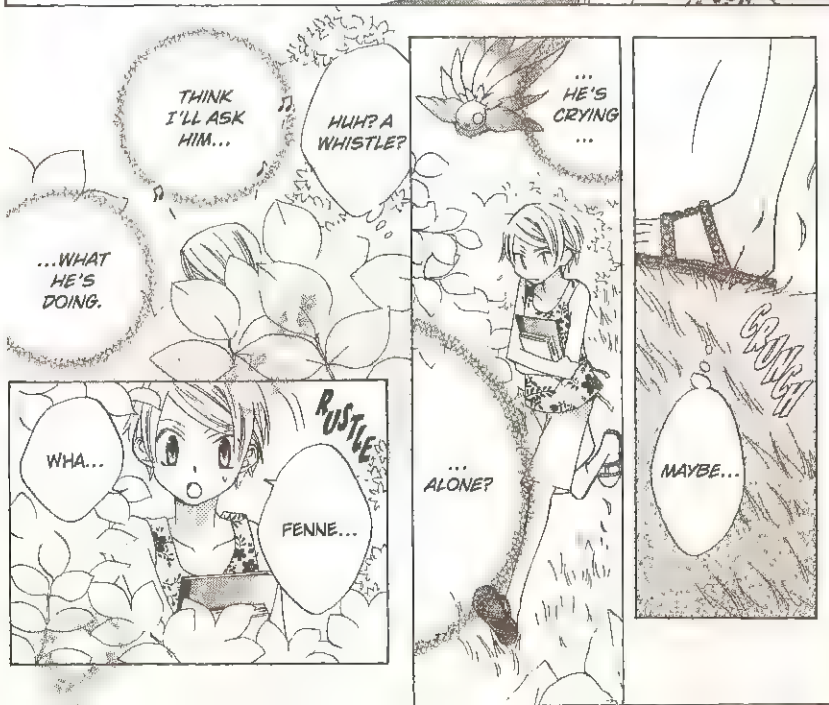
DO ME A FAVOR AND KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.
CELLO...
YEAH?
I'VE PUT IN A LONG DAY TODAY.
EH?
ME?
AH!
DOCTOR?
...EITHER?
I DON'T THINK HE HAS ANY FRIENDS EITHER.
FWAP
BY HIMSELF AGAIN...
THERE'S FENNE...

SEEMS THE "NEW" BIRD ISN'T FOND OF FENNE EITHER...
...SO THERE'S ALREADY TALK OF PAIRING HIM UP WITH ANOTHER ONE.
THEY REALLY MUST NOT GET ALONG.
I SPEND ALL MY TIME OUTSIDE OF CLASS WITH MOSSELYN AND SHE'S A SECOND-YEAR STUDENT NOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOES ON IN OTHER CLASSES...
YOU'RE IN THE CLASS RIGHT NEXT TO HIS AND YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF HIM?
HIS BIRD DIED?
HE'S RUMORED TO BE A VERY BRIGHT, PROMISING STUDENT...
...BUT SINCE HE ISN'T GETTING ALONG WELL WITH HIS NEW BIRD, HE'S LOSING HIS "TOUCH."
BUT I CAN SEE WHERE THE BIRD'S COMING FROM...
ALL DONE.
FOOO...


WHAT BIRD IS THAT?!

COO!
COO!
COO!
COO!
REPEATER?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
COO!
SHOOT!
THE OTHER BIRDS CAUGHT ON THAT HE WASN'T THERE
WE'VE GOTTA HIDE!
COO!
NOD
SORRY, BLACKIE ...
YOU'D BETTER RETURN TO YOUR FLOCK.
DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE BACK TO GET YOU!


WHAT'S HE DOING...
...IN THAT SECLUDED AREA?
RUFFLE
WHAT COULD BE GOING THROUGH HIS HEAD?
MUST BE ROUGH, HAVING HIS PARTNER BIRD DIE ON HIM...

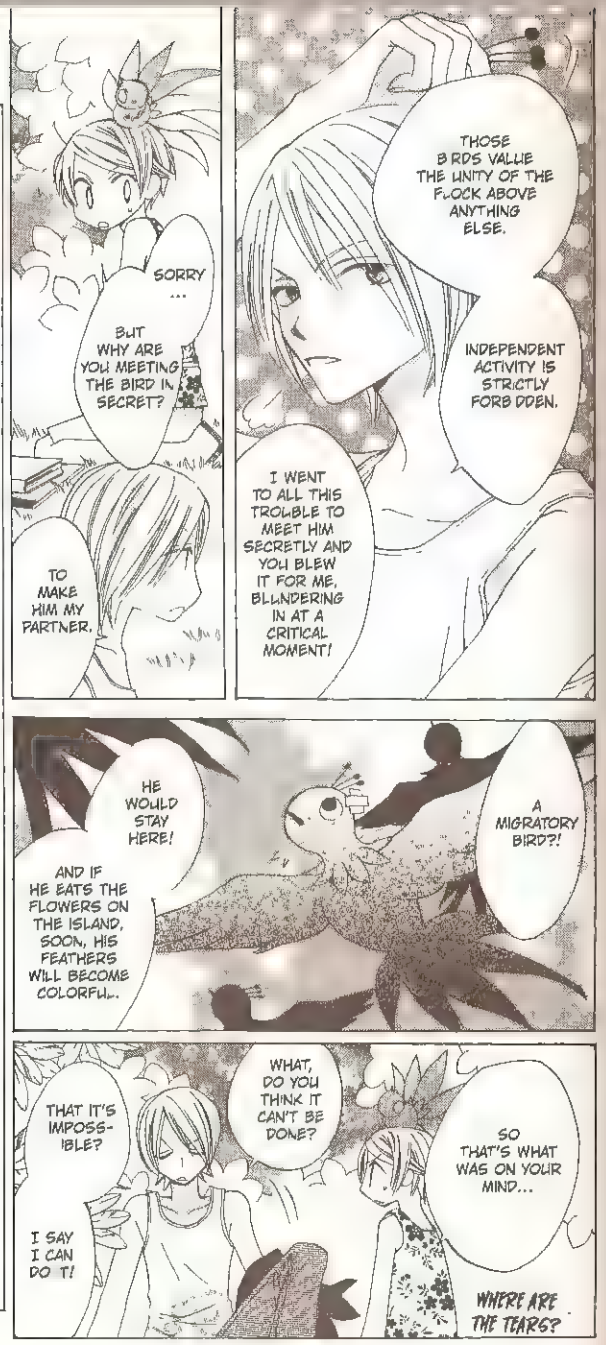

THINK I'LL ASK HIM...
HUH? A WHISTLE?
...WHAT HE'S DOING.
RUSTLE
WHA...
FENNE...
... HE'S CRYING ...
... ALONE?
MAYBE...

2

GREEN GREEN 1

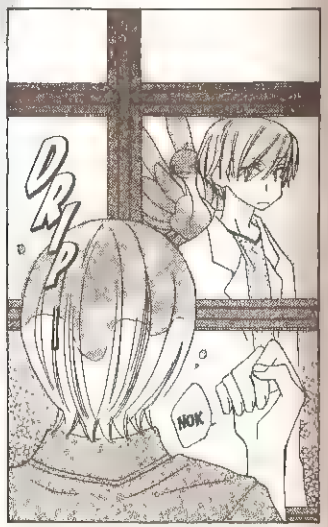
RECENTLY,
I'VE BEEN
PAYING
ATTENTION
TO FOLIAGE
PLANTS.
I STARE
AT THEM IDLY.
IN VOLUME 2,
I WROTE
THAT MANY
OF MY PLANTS
HAVE WILTED
WHILE THE
PACHIRA IS FINE.
BUT I HAVEN'T
BEEN TAKING
GOOD CARE
OF IT, SO
MANY OF ITS
LEAVES FALL OFF
(ESPECIALLY
IN THE WINTER).
I CUT ALL
THE BRANCHES,
SO WHEN I
LOOK AT
THE MARKS
LEFT ON THE
TRUNK NOW,
IT LOOK LIKE
100 EYES!
A LITTLE
CREEPY...
EVEN IF
IT IS MY
FAULT.

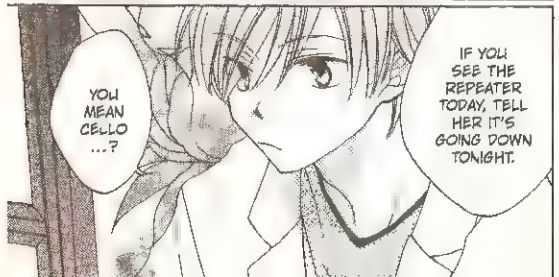
AFTER ALL,
ONLY A WEIRD
CREATURE WOULD
HAVE 100 EYES.


SORRY ...
BUT WHY ARE YOU MEETING THE BIRD IN SECRET?
TO MAKE HIM MY PARTNER.
THOSE BIRDS VALUE THE UNITY OF THE FLOCK ABOVE ANYTHING ELSE.
INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.
I WENT TO ALL THIS TROUBLE TO MEET HIM SECRETLY AND YOU BLEW IT FOR ME, BLUNDERING IN AT A CRITICAL MOMENT!
HE WOULD STAY HERE!
AND IF HE EATS THE FLOWERS ON THE ISLAND, SOON, HIS FEATHERS WILL BECOME COLORFUL..
A MIGRATORY BIRD?!
THAT IT'S IMPOSS-IBLE?
I SAY I CAN DO IT!
WHAT, DO YOU THINK IT CAN'T BE DONE?
SO THAT'S WHAT WAS ON YOUR MIND...
WHERE ARE THE TEARS?

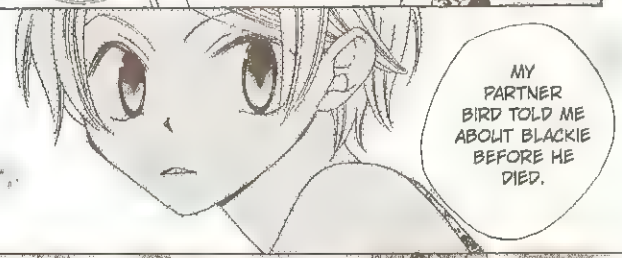
DOCTOR ...
...HAS GIVEN ME A CASE OF CULTURE SHOCK.
MEETING FENNE...
NOK NOK
YOU'RE NOT GONNA TRY AND MAKE AMENDS FOR FOLLING UP MY MEETING?
.....
SURE YOU ARE, RIGHT? TELL ME YOU WANNA MAKE IT UP TO ME.
EH?!
SILENCE SIGNIFIES ASSENT.

YEP.
I SEE YOUR SITUATION HASN'T CHANGED.
DIDN'T YOU HAVE A PLAN?

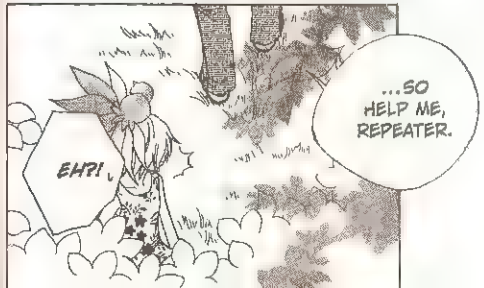

NOK


YOU MEAN CELLO ...?
IF YOU SEE THE REPEATER TODAY, TELL HER IT'S GOING DOWN TONIGHT.

SELF-IMPORTANT
EVERY YEAR HE'S COME TO OPAL, HE WISHED HE COULD STAY.
IT'S NOT ONLY ME! BLACKIE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE HE BELONGS WITH THE FLOCK.
I CAN SEE A CROWN ON HIS HEAD!


MY PARTNER BIRD TOLD ME ABOUT BLACKIE BEFORE HE DIED.

I DON'T THINK THERE'S A MORE SUITABLE NEW PARTNER FOR ME THAN HIM...

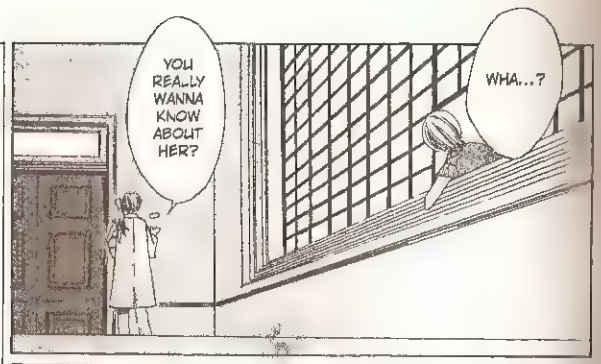

EH?!
...SO HELP ME, REPEATER.

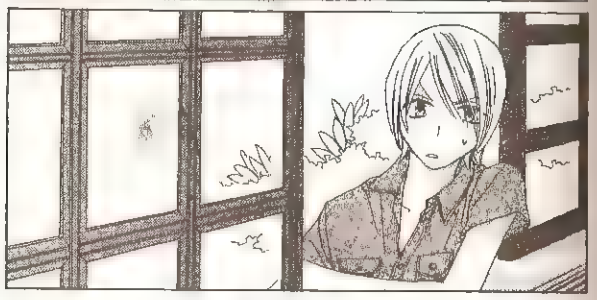
THIS GUY...

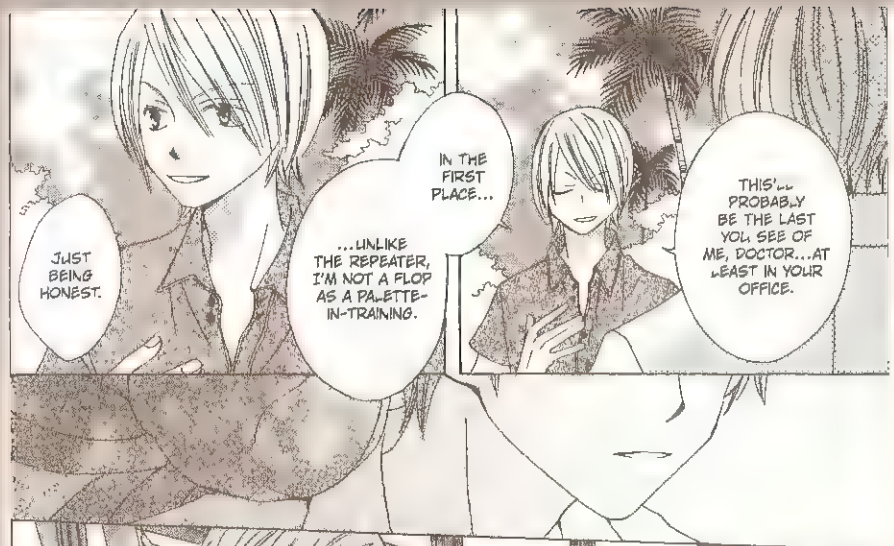
3

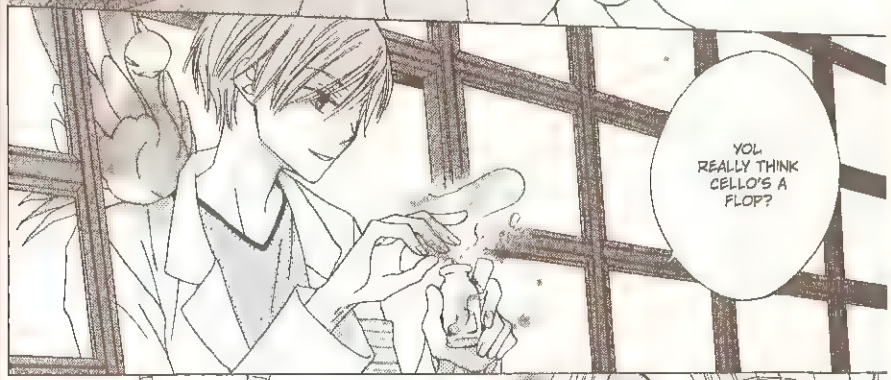
GREEN GREEN 2

THE PACHIRA'S GOT A NEW FRIEND. IT'S CALLED AN EVERFRESH; IT'S A TYPE OF TREE WHICH HAS LEAVES THAT CLOSE AT NIGHT.
I NEVER THOUGHT THE DAY WOULD COME THAT I'D BUY MAIL-ORDER PLANTS.
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE STORY, BUT RECENTLY, I BOUGHT AN INDONESIAN CLOTH FROM AN INTERNET MAIL-ORDER SERVICE AND IT WAS DELIVERED TO ME FROM A PLACE ONLY ABOUT 15 MINUTES AWAY BY CAR.
I WAS SURPRISED BECAUSE THE WEBSITE DIDN'T HAVE THE ADDRESS OF THE WAREHOUSE OR ANYTHING LISTED. NICE COINCIDENCE.






JUST BEING HONEST.
...UNLIKE THE REPEATER, I'M NOT A FLOP AS A PA-ETTE-IN-TRAINING.
IN THE FIRST PLACE...
THIS'LL PROBABLY BE THE LAST YOU SEE OF ME, DOCTOR...AT LEAST IN YOUR OFFICE.



IT'S LIKE...
I SWORE TO MY DEAD BIRD THAT I'D BECOME A BRILLIANT PALETTE.
AND THIS FIRST STEP IN THE PROCESS DESERVES TO BE RECOGNIZED!
...INSTEAD OF CRYING ABOUT IT...
YOU'D BETTER PAY ATTENTION, REPEATER!
NO BLINKING DURING MY BIG MOMENT!
...HE'S USING HIS GRIEF...
WHISPER
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
WE MADE PLANS TO RENDEZVOUS.
HE'S WAITING FOR YOU.
...TO GUIDE HIS FUTURE.

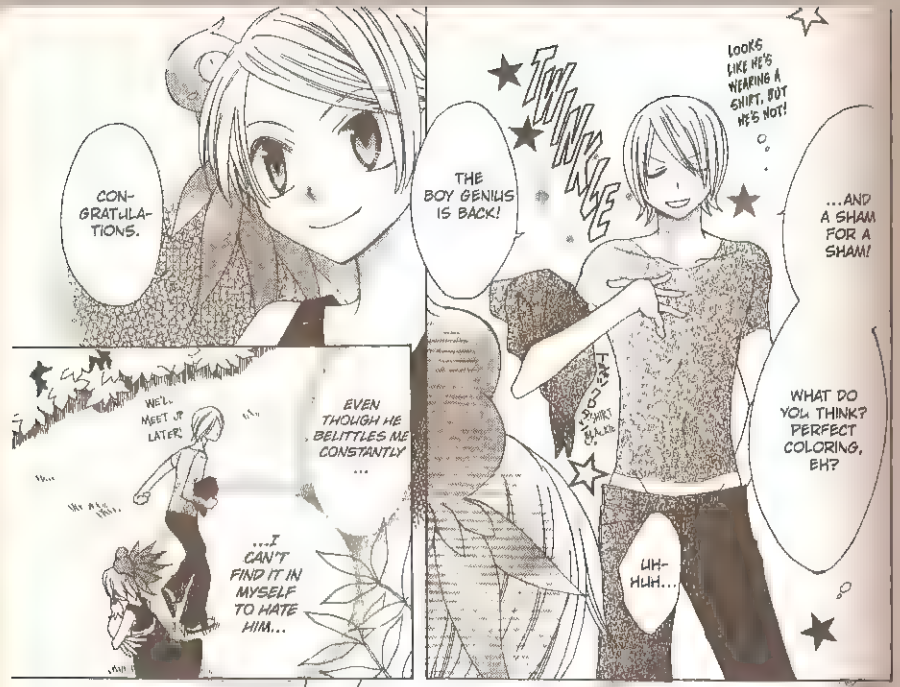
SO ...
...WHAT'S MY PART IN IT?
JUST OBSERVING!
TONIGHT, WITH THE CRESCENT MOON, WE'VE GOT A CHANCE.
BIRDS CAN'T SEE TOO WELL IN THE DARK, SO UNDER THE COVER OF NIGHT...
...WE'LL SPIRIT BLACKIE AWAY.
WERE YOU IN THE HOSPITAL OR SOMETHING?
STARE
ANYWAY, I'M GLAD YOU SHOWED UP.
AH!
FENNE...
NO. TO THE BEGINNING OF A REBORN FENNE!
...TO THE FORGING OF A NEW PARTNERSHIP...
YOU'RE MY WITNESS, REPEATER...

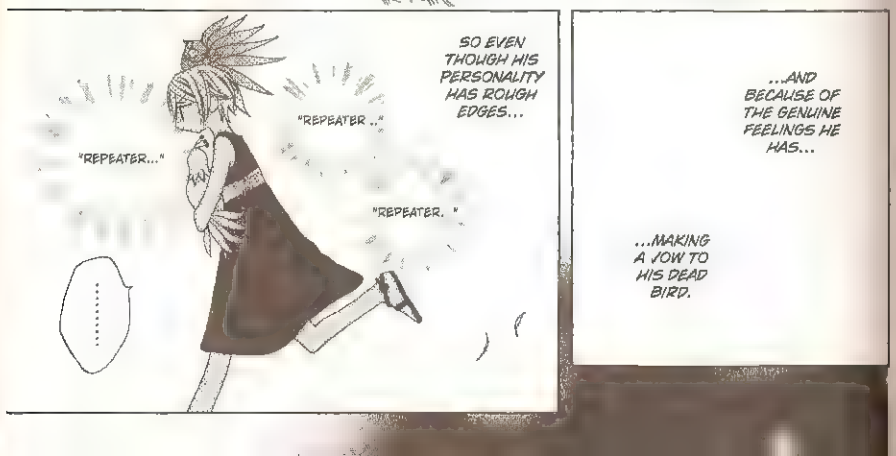
COO
COO
...AMBUSHED.
COO..
COO COO COO COO COO!!
THEY WERE ON GUARD...!
OW!
RIGHT!
PECK!!
COO
RUN!
WHOOSH
THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE ABLE TO SEE WELL IN THE DARK IF WE STAY IN THEIR LINE OF SIGHT LIKE THIS!

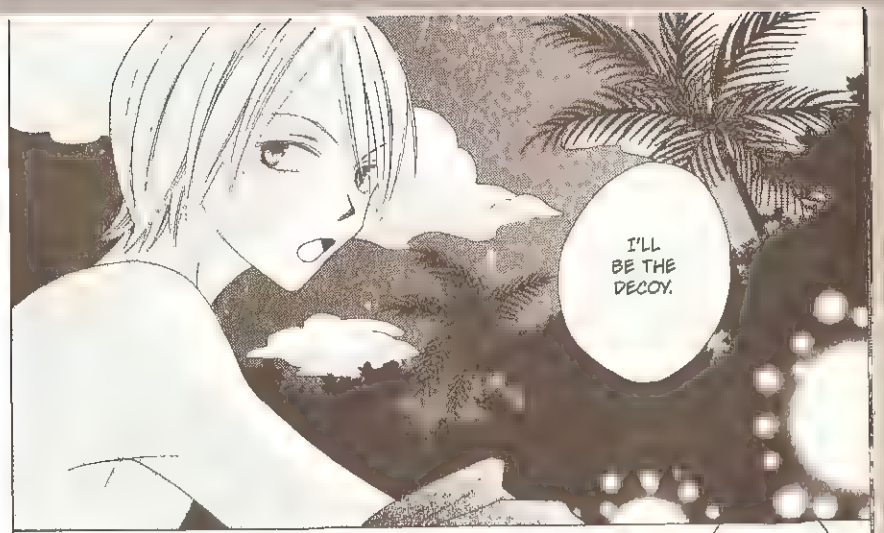
COO!
BLACKE!
COO!
COO!
COO!
COO!
COO!

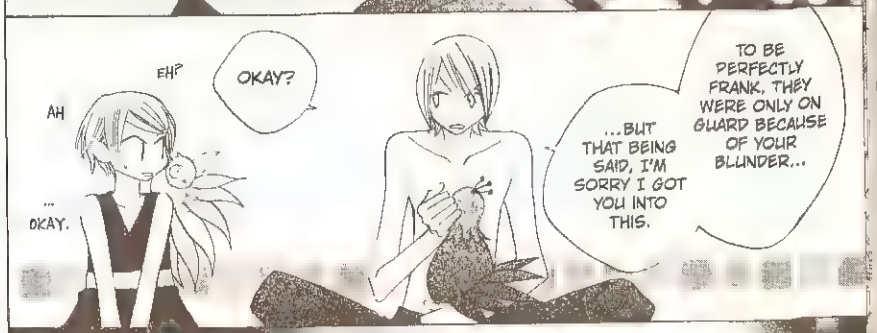
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
FWOO
GRAB!
...LET ALONE ALLOWING ANY BIRD TO LEAVE THE RANKS!
OO SH
WAA!
THUMP THUMP
SWISH
THE BODY'S SCARED TO DEATH!
YO-YO ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
MY HEAD KNOWS IT'S A BLUFF, BUT...
?!
FENN--
TLE
RUS
YOU THINK WE CAN MAKE IT HOME SAFELY?

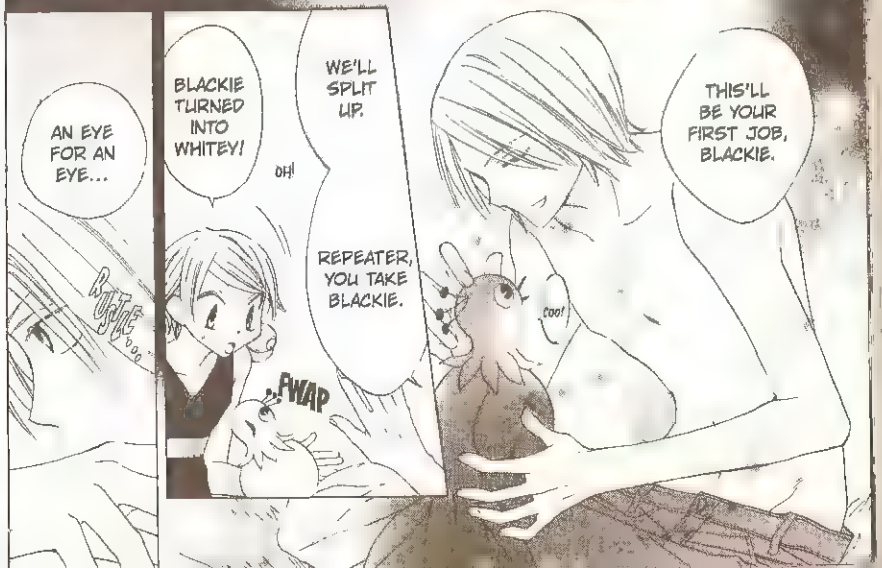
THEY FLY IN A TIGHT FORMATION...
...THAT LOOKS LIKE ONE HUGE BIRD!
NO!
LOOK CLOSELY! THAT'S THEIR BLUFF!
A THREAT...
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
WHA--?!
FWOOSH
HOPE THEY DON'T DROP SYNCHRONIZED WHITEWASH!!
EWWW
THEY DO THAT TO CHASE OFF ENEMIES.
MUST BE WHY THEY'RE SO STRICT ABOUT KEEPING ORDER IN THE FLOCK...
...WHY THEY CAN'T ABIDE INDEPENDENT ACTION...
THEY CHANGED INTO A GIANT BIRD...?!

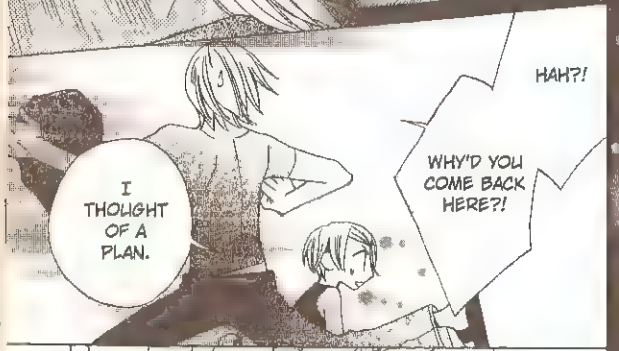

CON-GRATU-LA-TIONS.
THE BOY GENIUS IS BACK!
TWINKLE
LOOKS LIKE HE'S WEARING A SHIRT, BUT HE'S NOT!
...AND A SHAM FOR A SHAM!
WHAT DO YOU THINK? PERFECT COLORING, EH?
UH-HUH...
WE'LL MEET UP LATER.
EVEN THOUGH HE BELITTLES ME CONSTANTLY ...
...I CAN'T FIND IT IN MYSELF TO HATE HIM...
MAYBE BECAUSE HE'S DOING EVERYTHING HE CAN TO MOVE FORWARD...

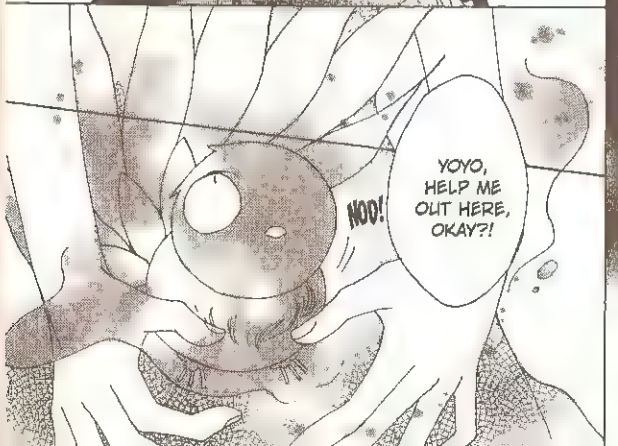

"REPEATER..."
"REPEATER."
"REPEATER."
SO EVEN THOUGH HIS PERSONALITY HAS ROUGH EDGES...
...AND BECAUSE OF THE GENUINE FEELINGS HE HAS...
...MAKING A VOW TO HIS DEAD BIRD.


I'LL BE THE DECOY.

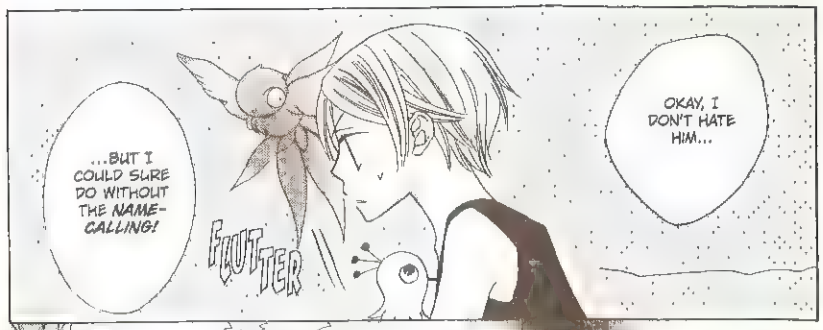

AH
...
OKAY.
EH?
OKAY?
...BUT THAT BEING SAID, I'M SORRY I GOT YOU INTO THIS.
TO BE PERFECTLY FRANK, THEY WERE ONLY ON GUARD BECAUSE OF YOUR BLUNDER...

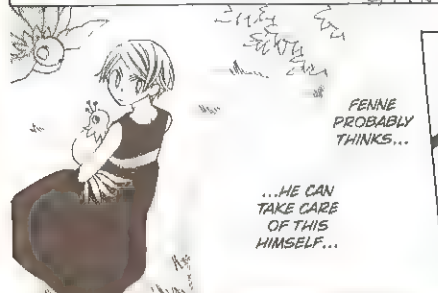

AN EYE FOR AN EYE...
RUSTLE
BLACKIE TURNED INTO WHITEY!
OH!
WE'LL SPLIT UP.
REPEATER, YOU TAKE BLACKIE.
FWAP
COO!
THIS'LL BE YOUR FIRST JOB, BLACKIE.

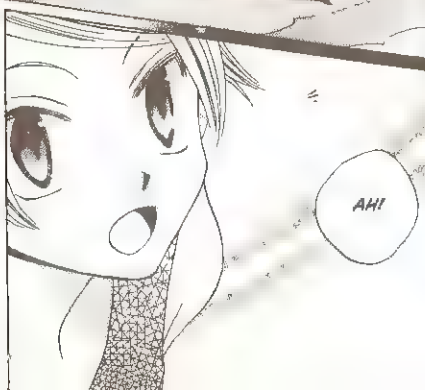




"A SHAM FOR A SHAM..."





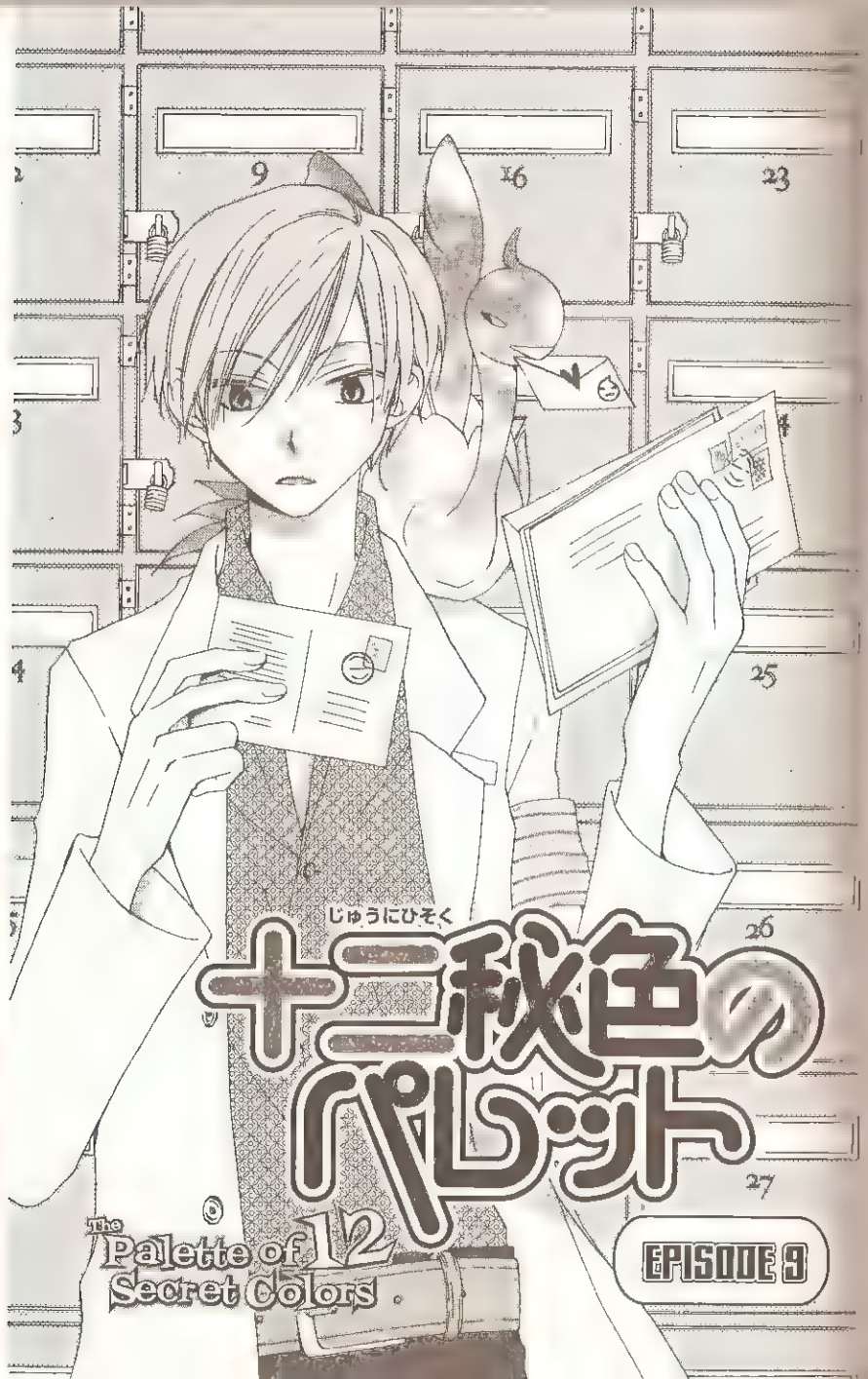


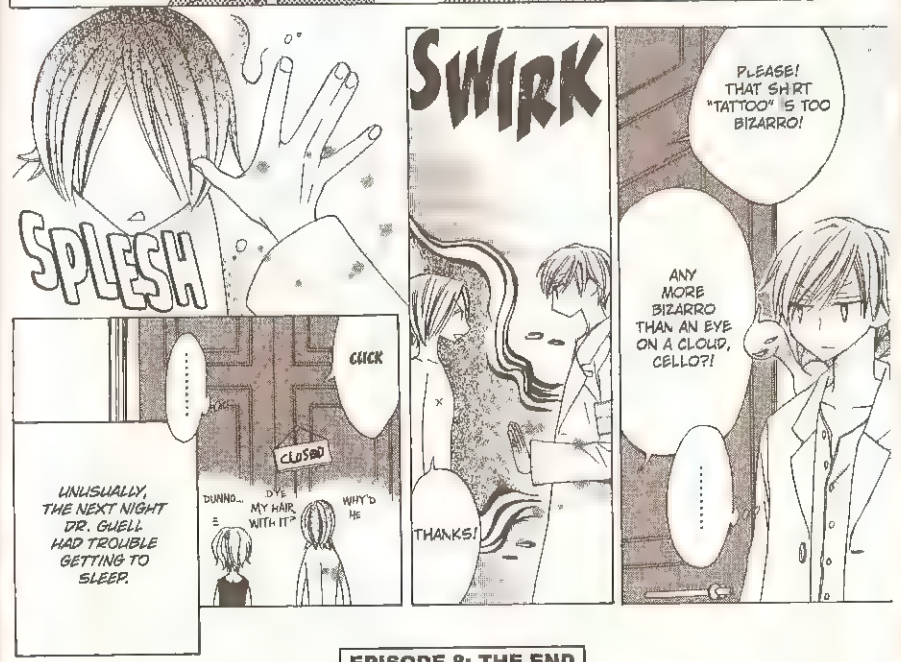
RUB
RUB
RUB
COO
COO
GLARE...
!!!

WHA--?
...MOVE FORWARD, TOO!
HECK, I WANT TO...
SPIN

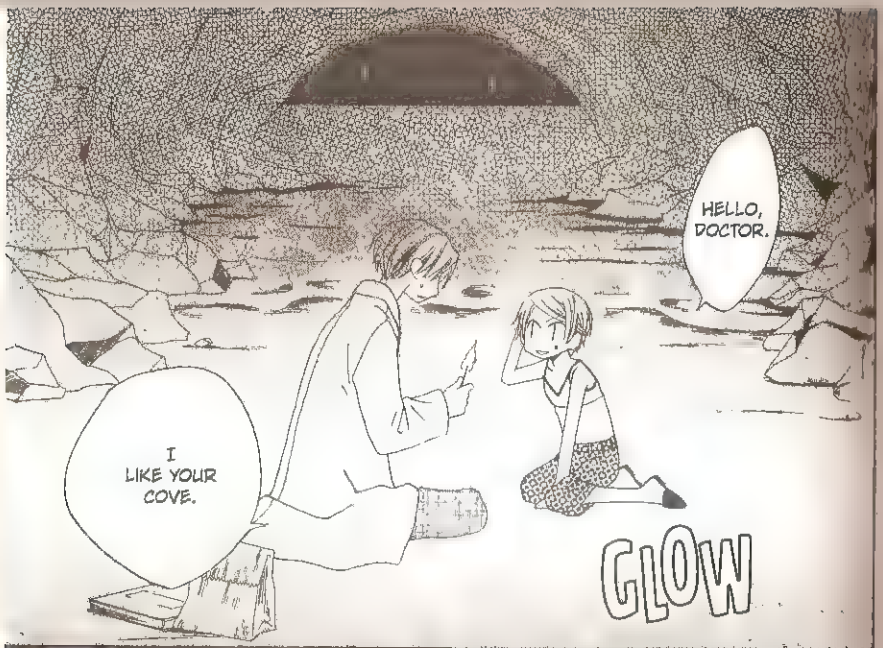
REPEA--
NO...
NO?
CELLO.

COO
COO
COO
.....
COO
COO
FLAP
COO
COO
FLAP
AFFECTING THE APPEARANCE OF A BIG BIRD TO CHASE OFF A PREDATOR. THEIR OWN MEDICINE USED AGAINST THEM.
PHEW!
I FEEL A LITTLE SORRY FOR THEM, THOUGH...
BUT I THINK THEY'VE GIVEN UP ON CHASING US.
COO!
YOU...



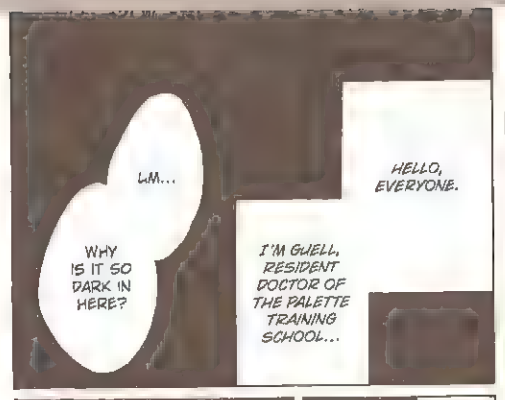


EPISODE 8: THE END

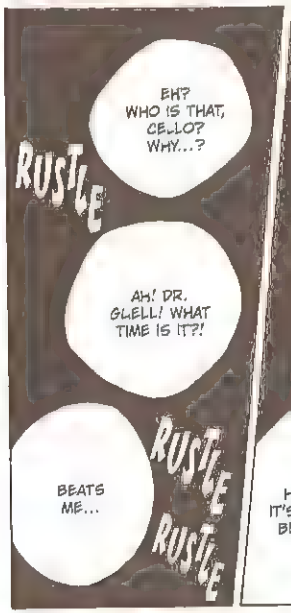

HELLO, DOCTOR.
I LIKE YOUR COVE.
GLOW

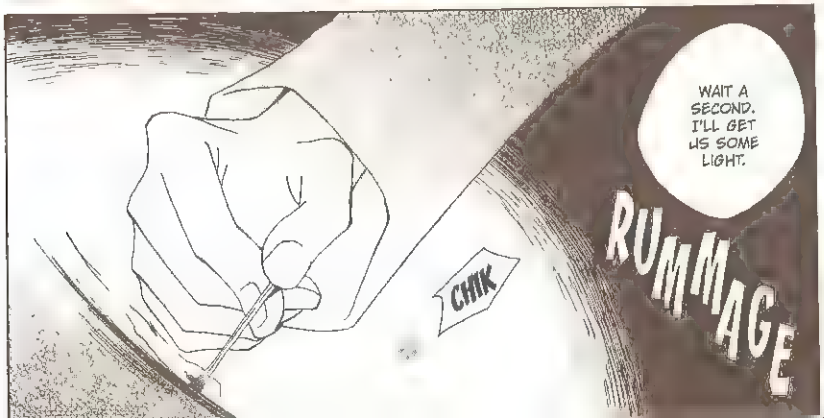
GOOD EVENING,
I MEAN, CELLO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
TONIGHT'S YOUR...

SEVERAL HOURS EARLIER...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT CELLO LIKES?
WHY DO YOU ASK, FENNE?
...
CLICK
NOK NOK
DR. GUELL, I'VE GOT A QUESTION.
POP


UM...
WHY IS IT SO DARK IN HERE?
HELLO, EVERYONE.
I'M GUELL, RESIDENT DOCTOR OF THE PALETTE TRAINING SCHOOL...

THE REMOTE ISLAND OF OPAL IN THE SOUTH SEAS...
...IS HOME TO BIRDS WITH THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL FEATHERS...
...AND COLOR MAGICIANS, KNOWN AS "PALETTES."


RUSTLE
EH? WHO IS THAT, CELLO? WHY...?
AH! DR. GUELL! WHAT TIME IS IT?!
BEATS ME...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
MY NAP MUST'VE LASTED PAST SUNSET.
MMM... NOW THAT WAS A GOOD NAP.
HUH?! IT'S PITCH BLACK!!
SWISH


WAIT A SECOND. I'LL GET US SOME LIGHT.
CHIK
RUMMAGE

4

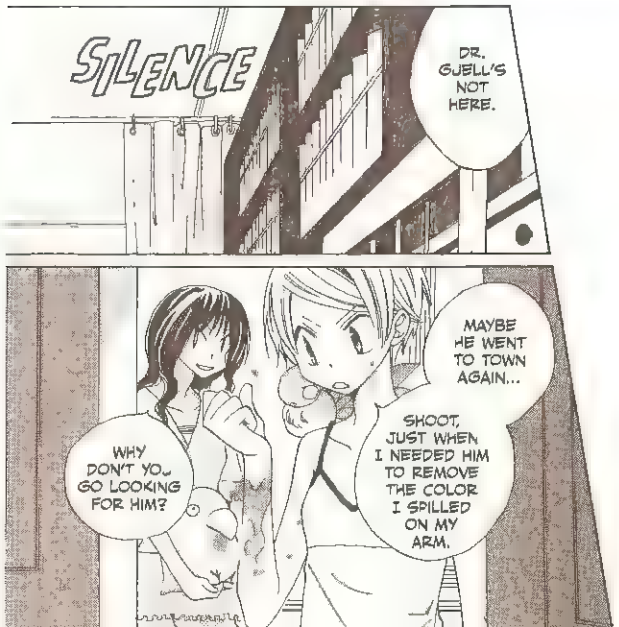
GREEN GREEN 3

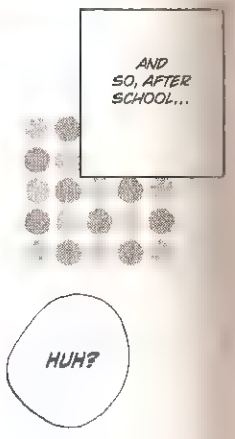
ON A ROLL, I BOUGHT A STEREOSPERMUM IN A SMALL POT (FOR ABOUT $2.00) AND QUICKLY PROCEEDED TO GIVE IT WAY TOO MUCH SUNLIGHT, WHICH NEARLY KILLED IT, BUT THANKFULLY, IT BOUNCED BACK NICELY. I LIKE STRONG PLANTS. IT'S ABOUT 4 INCHES HIGH, BUT I KNOW A PLANT OF THE SAME KIND THAT GROWS TO 71 INCHES. MY FONDEST WISH IS THAT IT'LL GROW THAT BIG.

I THINK SHE'D BE PROBABLY BE PLEASED WITH SOMETHING THAT REMINDED HER OF YOYO.
SHE ALSO LIKES SNOW AND I'VE HEARD THAT SHE GOES FISHING SOMETIMES.
HER WEAKNESS IS HEIGHTS.
MMM...
FENNE ISN'T SUCH A BAD GUY AFTER ALL...
HMMM...
IF IT WERE ME, I'D TRY AND FIND SOMETHING TO DO WITH SNOW...
HUH...
ARE YOU GONNA GIVE HER SOMETHING?

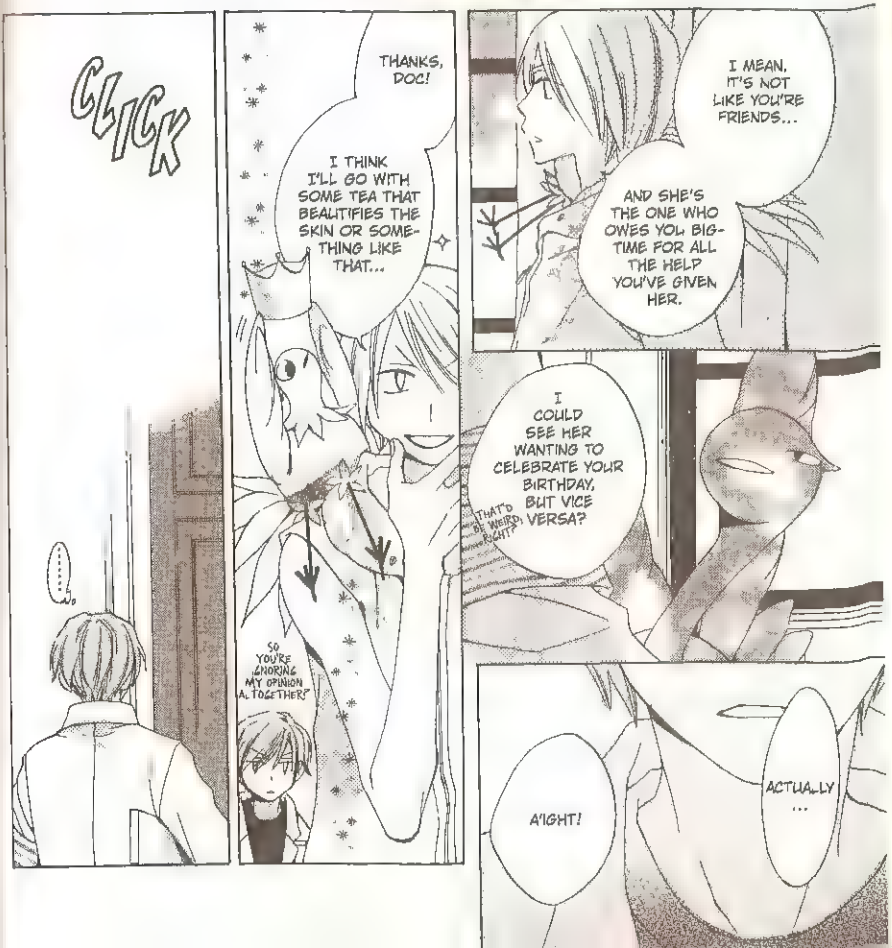
GOT ANY IDEAS?
TODAY'S HER BIRTHDAY?
SHE SAID THEY'RE GOING TO CELEBRATE AFTER DINNER, SO I WAS THINKING I'D BUY CELLO A PRESENT AFTER CLASSES ARE FINISHED.
RIGHT, BLACKIE?
COO!
MOSSELYN TOLD ME...
...THAT TODAY'S CELLO'S BIRTHDAY.
WE LOSE OUT TO MOSSALYN, WHO'S KNOWN HER LONGER.
I GUESS
HAIL, COMRADE!
SO YOU DIDN'T KNOW THEN?
SAME AS ME!
...SO GIVE ME SOME ADVICE, DOCTOR.
I'VE GOTTA SEE CELLO WHEN SHE'S REALLY HAPPY...
AS LONG AS WE'RE GONNA BE CELEBRATING, I'M NOT GONNA BE SATISFIED UNLESS I HELP HER HAVE A MEMORY SHE'LL LOOK BACK ON FONDLY OVER THE YEARS.

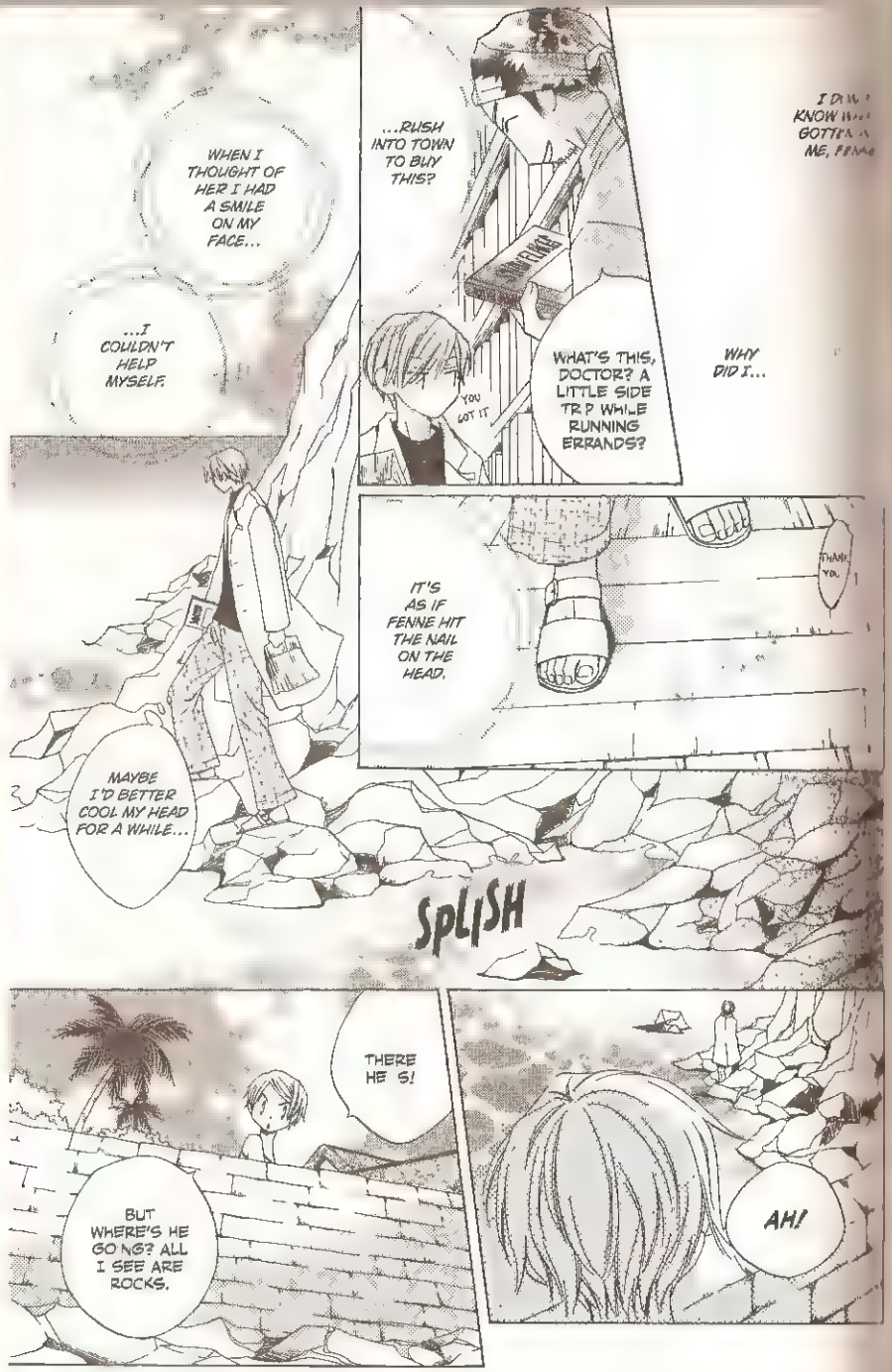
SURE.
IT'S THE PRINCIPAL...
KA-CHA
DR. GUELL...
AH, GOOD. YOU'VE GOT TIME ON YOUR HANDS.
I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD HAVE YOU RUN AN ERRAND FOR ME IN TOWN AFTER SCHOOL.
THE KIND THAT YOU POP YOURSELF. IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN FRESHLY-POPPED HOT POPCORN..
POPCORN?
I HAVE TO WORK OVERTIME TODAY SO I DON'T HAVE TIME TO GET A SNACK
AH, THAT'S MY LIST


SILENCE
DR. GUELL'S NOT HERE.
MAYBE HE WENT TO TOWN AGAIN...
SHOOT, JUST WHEN I NEEDED HIM TO REMOVE THE COLOR I SPILLED ON MY ARM.
WHY DON'T YOU GO LOOKING FOR HIM?


AND SO, AFTER SCHOOL...
HUH?

ME?
ON SECOND THOUGHT, THAT WOULDN'T WORK, WOULD IT?


CLICK
THANKS, DOC!
I THINK I'LL GO WITH SOME TEA THAT BEAUTIFIES THE SKIN OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
SO YOU'RE IGNORING MY OPINION ALTOGETHER?
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE FRIENDS...
AND SHE'S THE ONE WHO OWES YOU BIG-TIME FOR ALL THE HELP YOU'VE GIVEN HER.
I COULD SEE HER WANTING TO CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY, BUT VICE VERSA?
THAT'D BE WEIRD, RIGHT?
A'IGHT!
ACTUA..LY...


WHEN I THOUGHT OF HER I HAD A SMILE ON MY FACE...
...I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF.
...RUSH INTO TOWN TO BUY THIS?
YOU GOT IT
WHAT'S THIS, DOCTOR? A LITTLE SIDE TRIP WHILE RUNNING ERRANDS?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOTTEN INTO ME, FENNE
WHY DID I...
THANK YOU.
IT'S AS IF FENNE HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD.
MAYBE I'D BETTER COOL MY HEAD FOR A WHILE...
SPLISH
THERE HE IS!
BUT WHERE'S HE GOING? ALL I SEE ARE ROCKS.
AH!

HEH-HEH...
HAPPY SWEET 17!
THANKS!
I MEAN, YOU DON'T WANT TO SPEND YOUR WHOLE BIRTHDAY LOOKING LIKE THAT, DO YOU?
SUPPOSE NOT..
YOYO PINK
BUT HURRY BACK!
I'VE GOT A LOT PLANNED.
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
HMM..
A BOOK ABOUT SNOWFLAKES, EH...?
SNOW FLAKES

5

5

GREEN GREEN 4

AND I BOUGHT ONE MORE SMALL POTTED PLANT: A HEDERA. IT'S A KIND OF IVY. THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT KINDS, I GATHER. ALSO, WITH SUMMER (FOOD) IN MIND, I WANT TO GET SOMETHING LIKE A BLUE BEEF-STEAK PLANT.

THAT REMINDS ME, A LONG TIME AGO, AT MY FAMILY'S HOUSE, WE HAD COTTON PLANTS GROWING IN THE GARDEN. (OR AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT WE CALLED THEM; THEY WERE REALLY WEEDS.) BUT ON RAINY DAYS, THEY ALWAYS LOOKED REALLY STRANGE. I HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE PICK THEM.

POP
HUH. I NEVER KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS
SO THERE WAS A COVE HERE...
DOC...
...THEN I'VE BEEN FEELING WEIRD FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW.
IF THIS IS "WEIRD"...

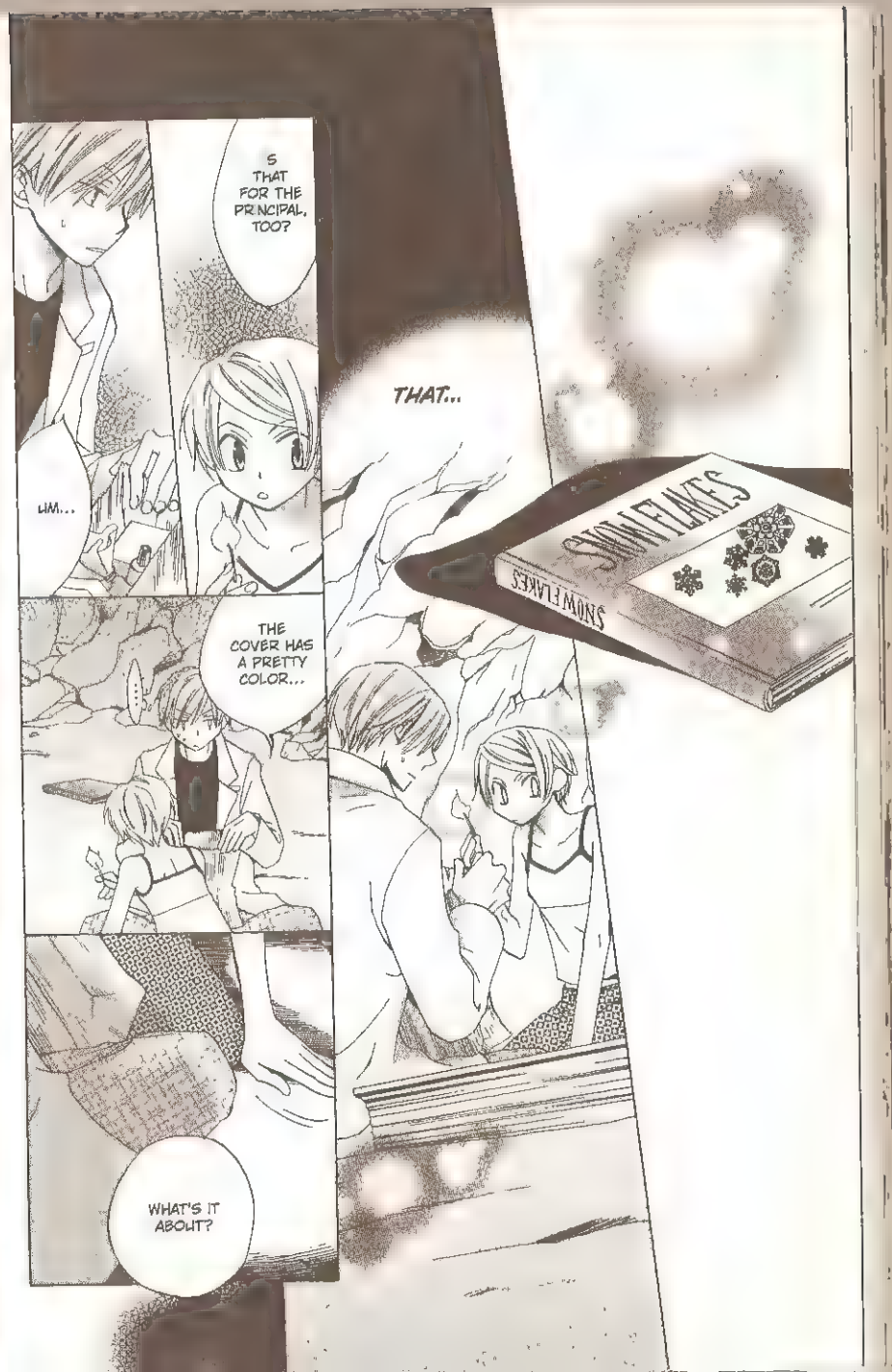
SIGH!
I CAN'T SEE A THING IN THIS DARKNESS...
RATTLE
IF YOU FALL, YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF.
DON'T MOVE, CELLO.
IS THERE A NEW MOON? AH!
FLICKER
WE'D BE OKAY USING THE PRINCIPAL'S MATCHES, BUT...
FLICKER
UNLESS YOU'RE WALKING WITH SURE STEPS...
...IT'S DANGEROUS.
CHK
GLOW
THE WAY THEY LAST, I CAN'T IMAGINE GETTING HOME MUCH EARLIER.
WHAT, WE WOULDN'T BE HOME TILL MORNING?!
YOU PROBABLY NOTICED WHEN YOU CAME IN, BUT THERE ARE CRAGGY ROCKS ALL OVER THE PLACE.
SSHHH

SSSHHH...
SSSHHH...
SSSHHH...
SLUMP
FWUMP!
OOPS!
AH!
FLICKER
I SEE.
SO, WHEN I WOKE UP, IT WAS DARK LIKE THIS.
LONG STORY.

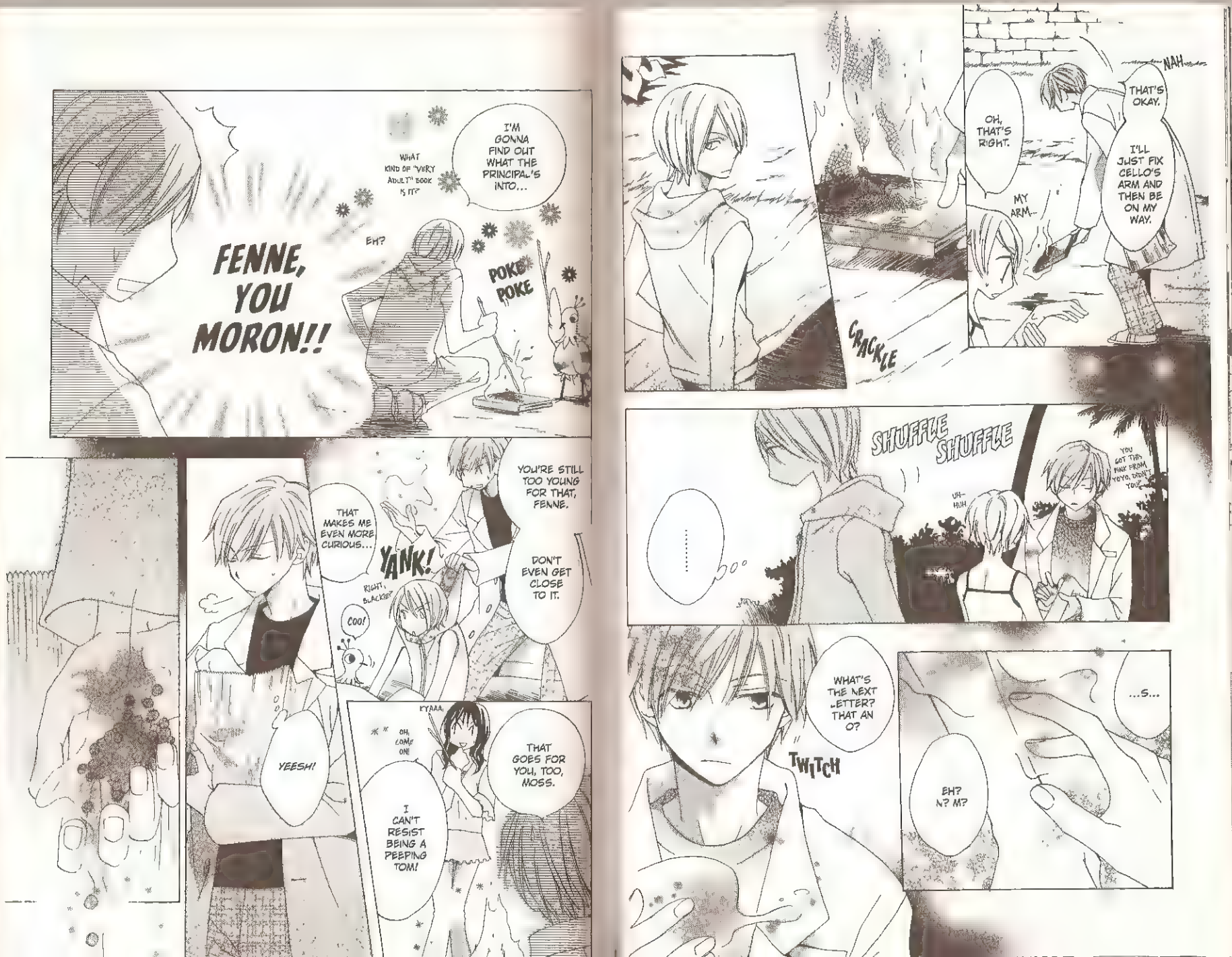
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
OTHER THAN THE MATCHES, I DON'T THINK ANYTHING I BOUGHT FOR THE PRINCIPAL COULD COME IN HANDY IN THIS PREDICAMENT.
UNLESS WE CAN MAKE SOME KIND OF TORCH OUT OF THEM...
SORRY FOR PUTTING YOU TO ALL THIS TROUBLE...
HMM... DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING REASONABLY FLAMMABLE IN HERE...
MOSTLY JUST SNACKS
WHY DID YOU WANT TO BE ALONE TODAY?
I FOUND THE PLACE WHEN I WAS A KID.
EVER SINCE THEN, WHENEVER I WANTED TO BE ALONE, I'D SNEAK AWAY HERE.
CHIK
HUH?
...IT'S A SECRET.

WAAA!
I CAN'T WAIT!
YES, I KNOW IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY.
A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME...AN ARROGANT LITTLE BIRD.
HUH? DOCTOR...
SEEMS HE WAS BANKING ON SEEING YOUR DELIGHTED FACE.
WITH TEA...
MOSSALYN TOLD ME TO HURRY BACK...
THAT'S RIGHT. THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU, AREN'T THEY?
AND YOYO WILL JOIN IN
W-WHAT AM I GONNA DO?
MOSSALYN AND FENNE WILL KILL ME...!
DEJECTED
...AND... HERE I AM.
FLICKER
LET'S THINK OF SOMETHING.
...HAVE YOU BEEN COMING HERE FOR A LONG TIME?
I SHOULD'VE STORED A LAMP IN HERE.
SIGH.

DON'T LOOK.
EW?!
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THAT'S THE MOST FLAMMABLE THING IN HERE.
IF I TELL HER IT'S FOR HER, THERE GOES OUR FIRE.
SHOULD MAKE A HALF-DECENT TORCH...
THAT...
...IS A VERY ADULT BOOK...
FOR THE PRINCIPAL
SIGHHH...
OH, WELL...

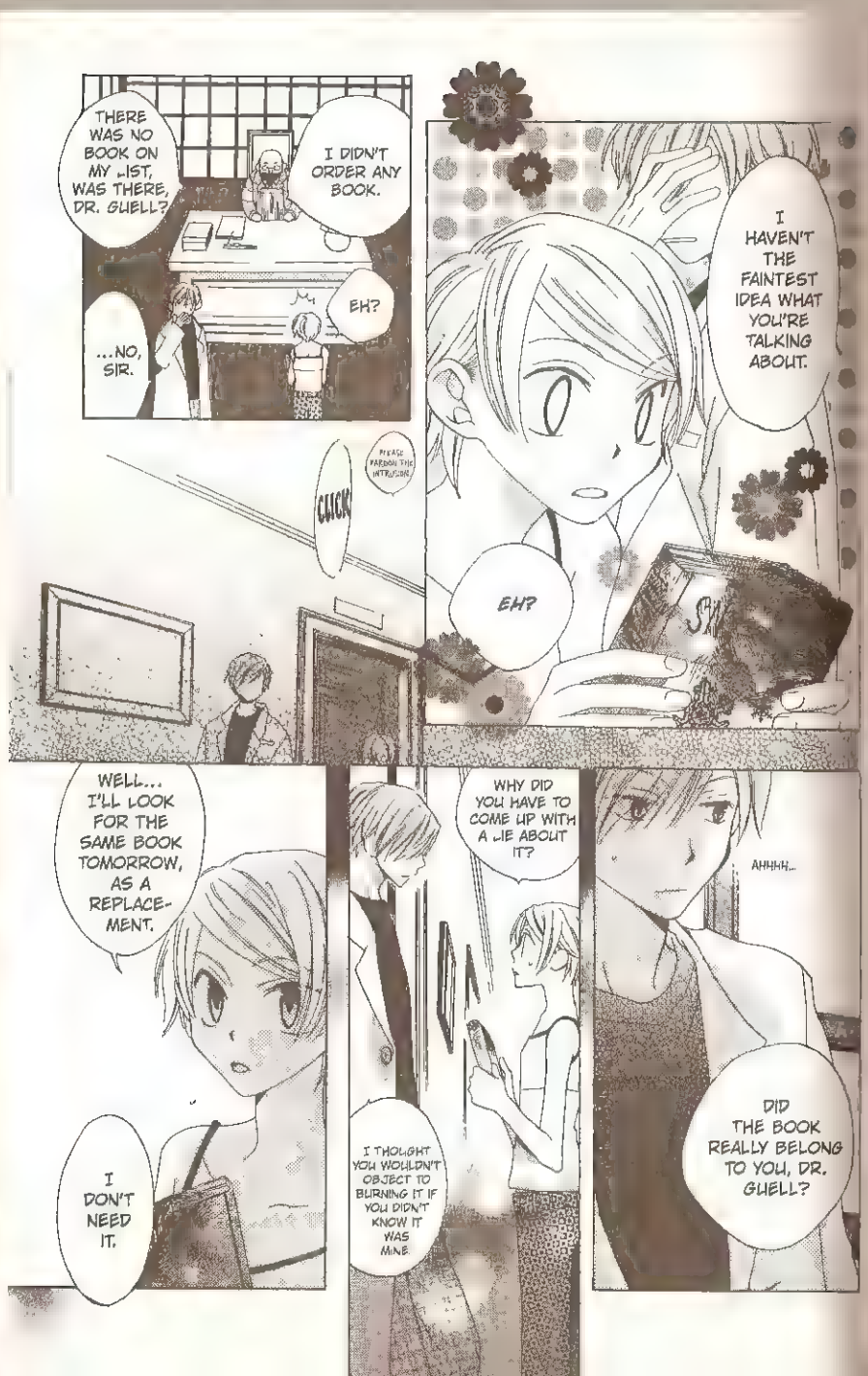

S THAT FOR THE PRINCIPAL, TOO?
UM...
THAT...
SNOWFLAKES
THE COVER HAS A PRETTY COLOR...
WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

...I'VE BEEN TOO LAID-BACK ABOUT TODAY.


FENNE, YOU MORON!!
I'M GONNA FIND OUT WHAT THE PRINCIPAL'S INTO...
WHAT KIND OF "VERY ADULT" BOOK IS IT?
EH?
POKE POKE
YOU'RE STILL TOO YOUNG FOR THAT, FENNE.
DON'T EVEN GET CLOSE TO IT.
THAT MAKES ME EVEN MORE CURIOUS...
YANK!
RIGHT, BLACKIE?
COO!
YEESH!
KYAAA
OH, COME ON!
I CAN'T RESIST BEING A PEEPING TOM!
THAT GOES FOR YOU, TOO, MOSS.
CRACKLE
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
MY ARM...
NAH...
THAT'S OKAY.
I'LL JUST FIX CELLO'S ARM AND THEN BE ON MY WAY.
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
UH-HUH
YOU GOT THIS FUNK FROM YOYO, DIDN'T YOU?
.....
WHAT'S THE NEXT LETTER? THAT AN O?
TWITCH
...S...
EH? N? M?

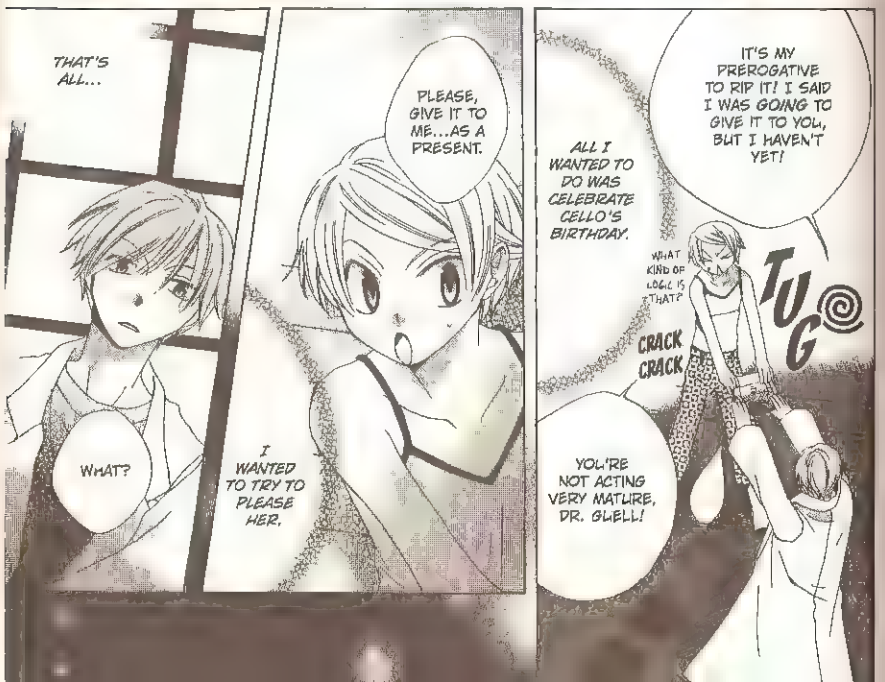
.....
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
FLUTTER...
OH!
SPLASH

WHOO
SH
GULP
GET TOO CLOSE TO IT...
...AND THE PRINCIPAL'S HOBBY WILL END UP BURNING YOU.
POP POP
WHAT THE
POPCORN?!
HOT!
COURTESY OF YOYO..
THERE YOU GO. END OF MYSTERY.
AND IT'S A NASTY PINK COLOR?!
POP
POP
POP
SHOOT
THANK YOU!
WELL, CELLO...
HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

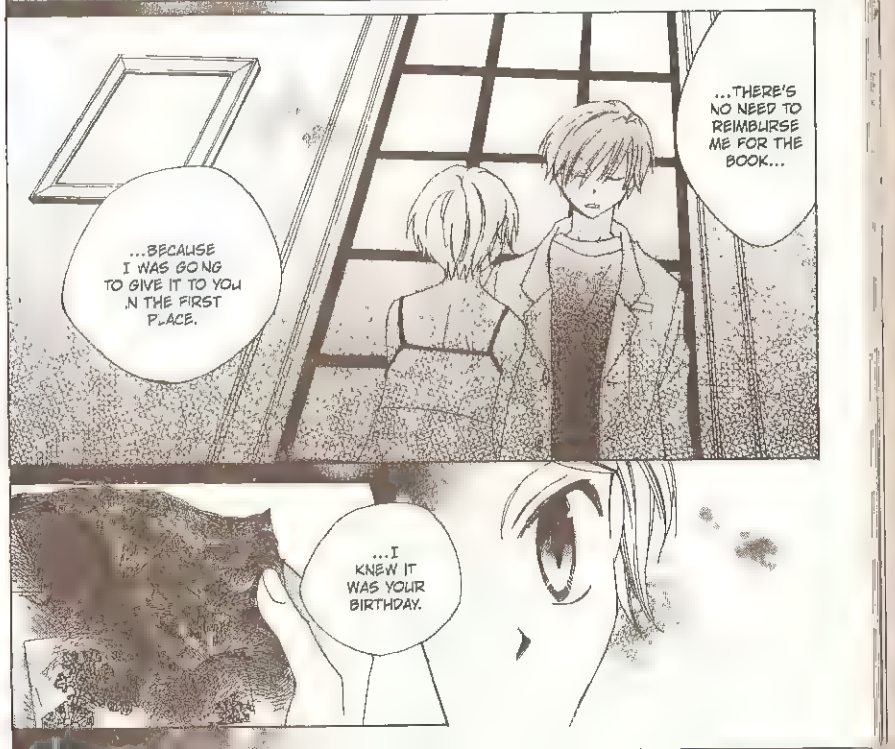

THERE WAS NO BOOK ON MY LIST, WAS THERE, DR. GUELL?
I DIDN'T ORDER ANY BOOK.
EH?
...NO, SIR.
PLEASE PARDON THE INTRUSION
CLICK
EH?
I HAVEN'T THE FAINTEST IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
WELL... I'LL LOOK FOR THE SAME BOOK TOMORROW, AS A REPLACE-MENT.
I DON'T NEED IT.
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO COME UP WITH A LIE ABOUT IT?
I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T OBJECT TO BURNING IT IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS MINE
AHHHH...
DID THE BOOK REALLY BELONG TO YOU, DR. GUELL?

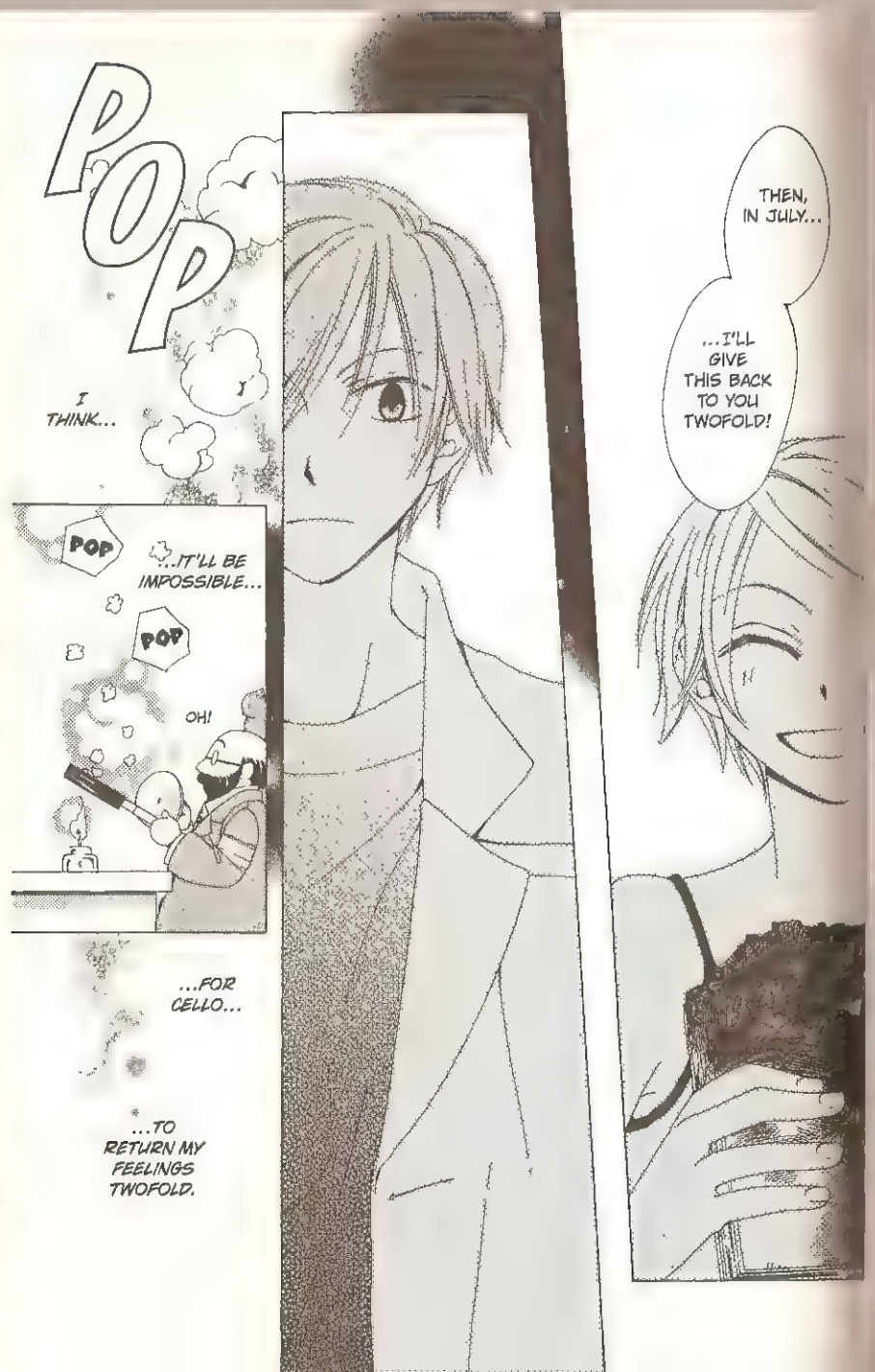
SPLASH
...IT'S A REGULAR BOOK.
SWISH
PRINCIPAL!
JUST YOUR IMAGINATION.
IT SEEMS LIKE THERE ARE FEWER KERNELS THAN USUAL...
...AND DR. GUELL USED IT TO LEAD ME HOME.
WE NEEDED A LIGHT, SO WE SET IT ON FIRE...
IF IT'S NOT A SECRET, I'D LIKE YOU TO LET ME PAY FOR THE BOOK THAT DR. GUE... BOUGHT FOR YOU.

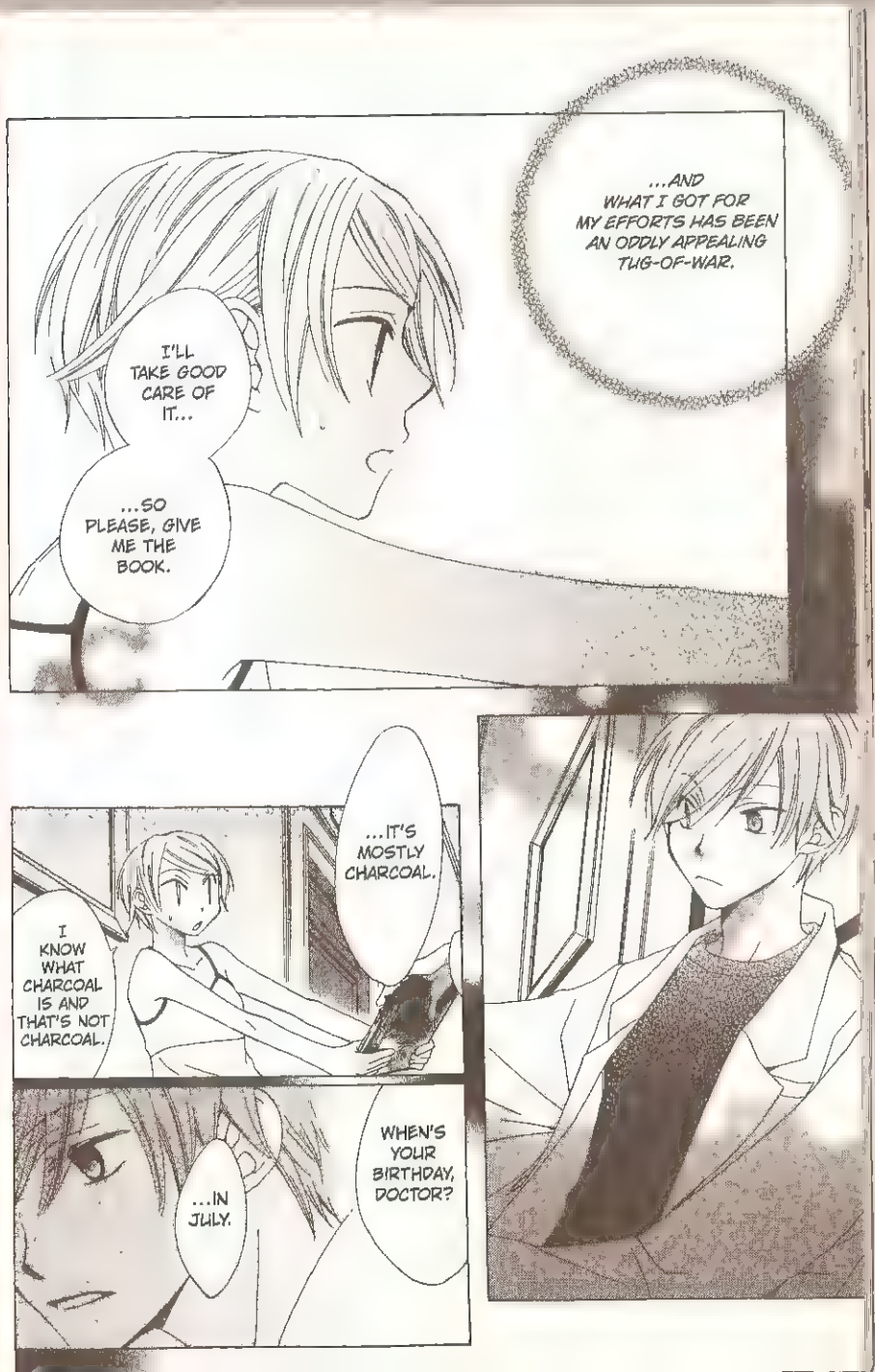
IT'S SO CHARRED YOU CAN'T EVEN READ IT!
BESIDES, IT SERVED US WELL ENOUGH ALREADY, DIDN'T IT, AS A TORCH?
THOSE TWO
SSSHH
YOU KEEP PU...ING ON IT LIKE THAT, IT'S GONNA RIP!
WEIRD, RIGHT? I KNOW...
GIVE IT BACK.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
TUG
WAAA!


THAT'S ALL...
PLEASE, GIVE IT TO ME...AS A PRESENT.
WHAT?
I WANTED TO TRY TO PLEASE HER.
IT'S MY PREROGATIVE TO RIP IT! I SAID I WAS GOING TO GIVE IT TO YOU, BUT I HAVEN'T YET!
ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS CELEBRATE CELLO'S BIRTHDAY.
WHAT KIND OF LOGIC IS THAT?
CRACK CRACK
TUG
YOU'RE NOT ACTING VERY MATURE, DR. GLELL!

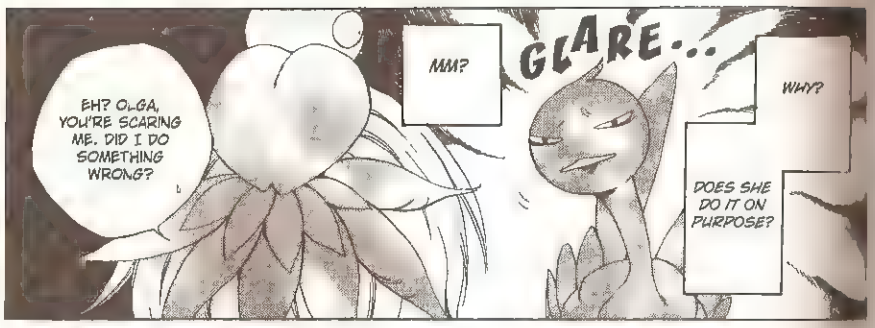
WHAT WOULD I DO WITH TWO COPIES OF THE SAME BOOK?
THAT'S MY WAY OF REPAYING A FAVOR!
YES, YOU DO.
AND SAYING YOU DON'T MAKES ME WANT TO GIVE IT BACK TO YOU TWOFOLD!
THE FACT IS...


...BECAUSE I WAS GOING TO GIVE IT TO YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE.
...THERE'S NO NEED TO REIMBURSE ME FOR THE BOOK...
...I KNEW IT WAS YOUR BIRTHDAY.

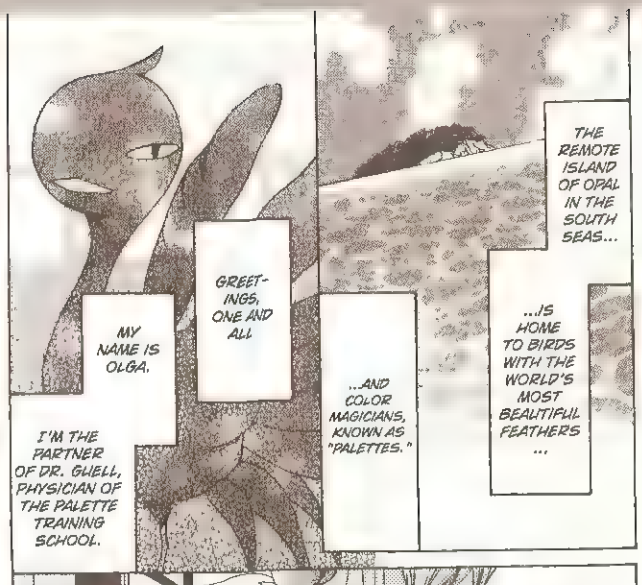

POP
I THINK...
POP
...IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE...
POP
OH!
...FOR CELLO...
...TO RETURN MY FEELINGS TWOFOLD.
THEN, IN JULY...
...I'LL GIVE THIS BACK TO YOU TWOFOLD!


...AND WHAT I GOT FOR MY EFFORTS HAS BEEN AN ODDLY APPEALING TUG-OF-WAR.
I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT...
...SO PLEASE, GIVE ME THE BOOK.
...IT'S MOSTLY CHARCOAL.
I KNOW WHAT CHARCOAL IS AND THAT'S NOT CHARCOAL.
WHEN'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, DOCTOR?
...IN JULY.

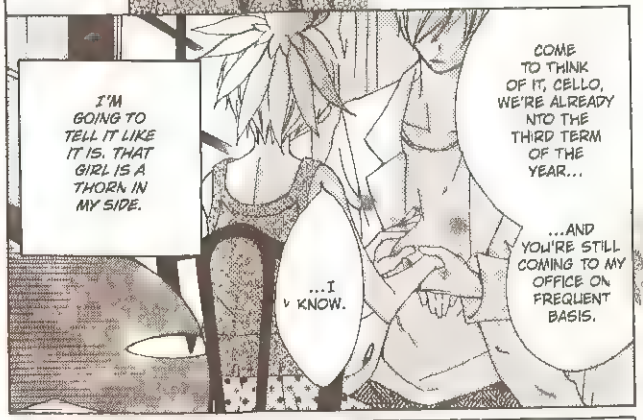
EPISODE 9: THE END

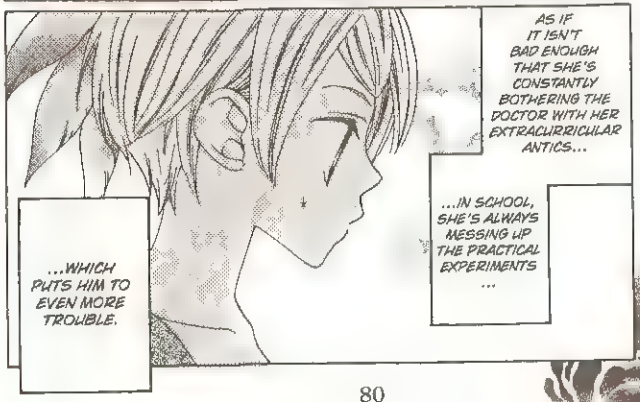


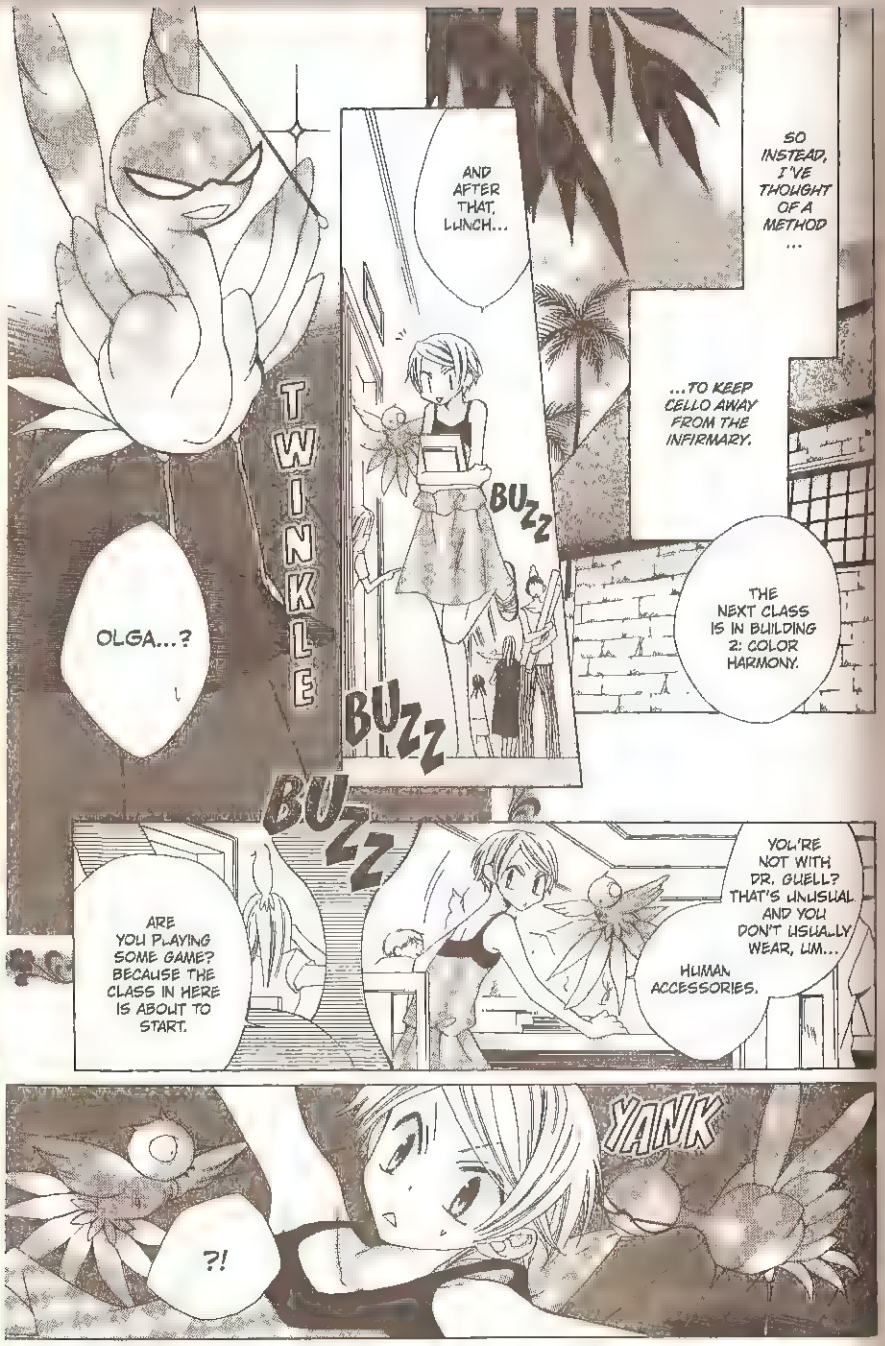
I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT.
I EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM YOU.
OHHH..
DR. GUELL...
DR. GUELL IS MINE.
CELLO ...
YOU SHOULD REALLY HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF.
AND I'M NOT SURRENDERING HIM TO ANY LITTLE GIRL.
NOBODY'S GOING TO WANT TO READ "PALETTE OF 12 SECRET COLORS REVIEW: HELD BACK AGAIN", SO PLEASE...
... RIGHT.
HONESTLY

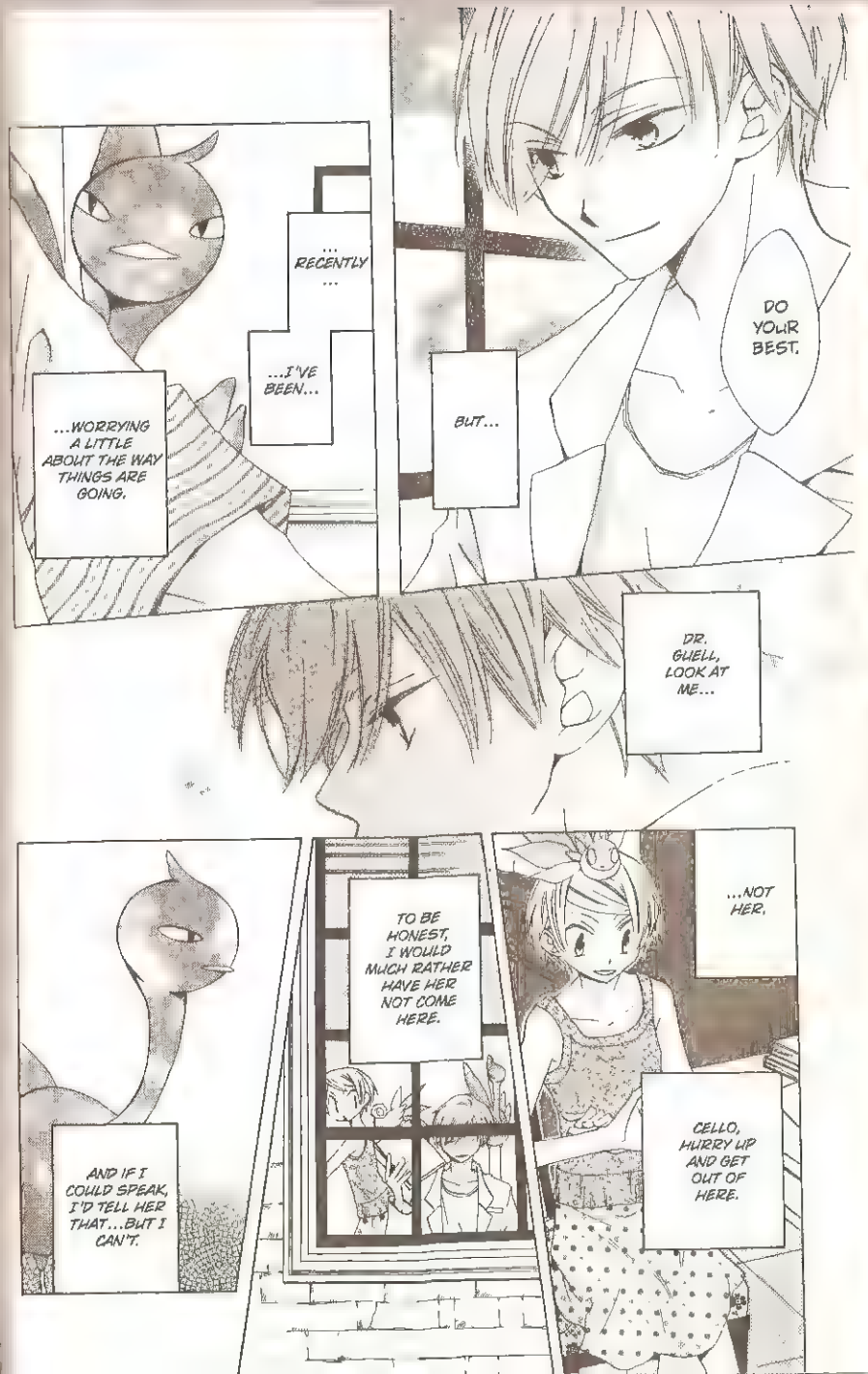

MY NAME IS OLGA.
GREETINGS, ONE AND ALL
I'M THE PARTNER OF DR. GUELL, PHYSICIAN OF THE PALETTE TRAINING SCHOOL.
...AND COLOR MAGICIANS, KNOWN AS "PALETTES."
THE REMOTE ISLAND OF OPAL IN THE SOUTH SEAS...
...IS HOME TO BIRDS WITH THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL FEATHERS ...

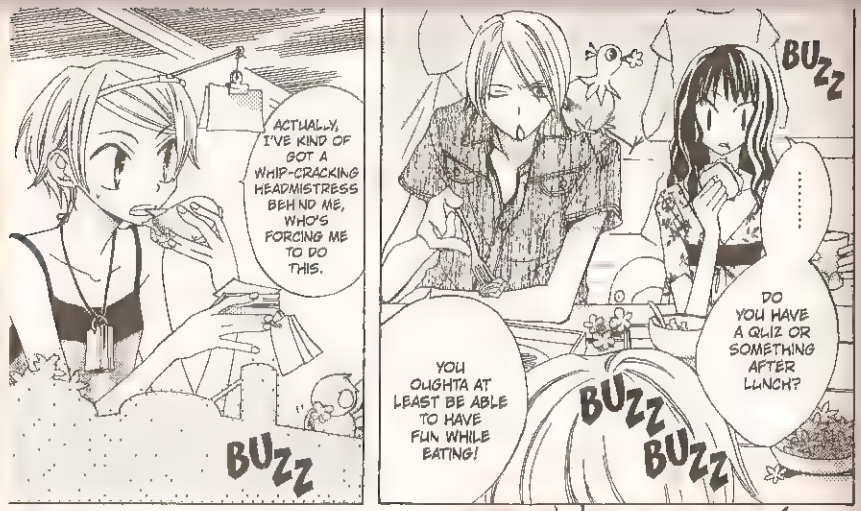
IF YOU LISTEN CAREFULLY, YOU CAN HEAR THE SONG OF THE BIRDS.


I'M GOING TO TELL IT LIKE IT IS. THAT GIRL IS A THORN IN MY SIDE.
...I KNOW.
COME TO THINK OF IT, CELLO, WE'RE ALREADY INTO THE THIRD TERM OF THE YEAR...
...AND YOU'RE STILL COMING TO MY OFFICE ON A FREQUENT BASIS.


...WHICH PUTS HIM TO EVEN MORE TROUBLE.
AS IF IT ISN'T BAD ENOUGH THAT SHE'S CONSTANTLY BOTHERING THE DOCTOR WITH HER EXTRACURRICULAR ANTICS...
...IN SCHOOL, SHE'S ALWAYS MESSING UP THE PRACTICAL EXPERIMENTS ...

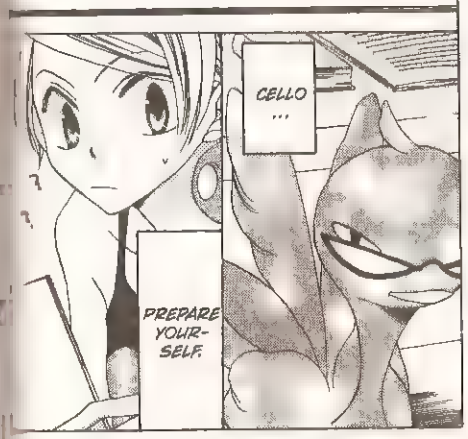

TWINKLE
OLGA...?
AND AFTER THAT, LUNCH...
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
SO INSTEAD, I'VE THOUGHT OF A METHOD ...
...TO KEEP CELLO AWAY FROM THE INFIRMARY.
THE NEXT CLASS IS IN BUILDING 2: COLOR HARMONY.
ARE YOU PLAYING SOME GAME? BECAUSE THE CLASS IN HERE IS ABOUT TO START.
YOU'RE NOT WITH DR. GUELL? THAT'S UNUSUAL AND YOU DON'T USUALLY WEAR, UM... HUMAN ACCESSORIES.
YANK
?!

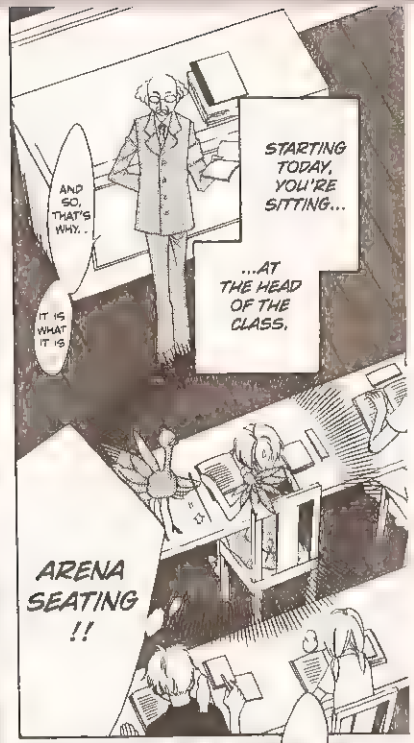

...WORRYING A LITTLE ABOUT THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING.
...I'VE BEEN...
...RECENTLY ...
BUT...
DO YOUR BEST.
DR. GUELL, LOOK AT ME...
AND IF I COULD SPEAK, I'D TELL HER THAT...BUT I CAN'T.
TO BE HONEST, I WOULD MUCH RATHER HAVE HER NOT COME HERE.
...NOT HER.
CELLO, HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE.

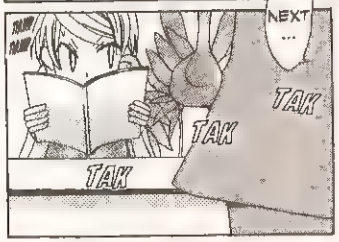

ACTUALLY, I'VE KIND OF GOT A WHIP-CRACKING HEADMISTRESS BEHND ME, WHO'S FORCING ME TO DO THIS.
BUZZ
BUZZ
YOU OUGHTA AT LEAST BE ABLE TO HAVE FUN WHILE EATING!
BUZZ BUZZ
.....
DO YOU HAVE A QUIZ OR SOMETHING AFTER LUNCH?

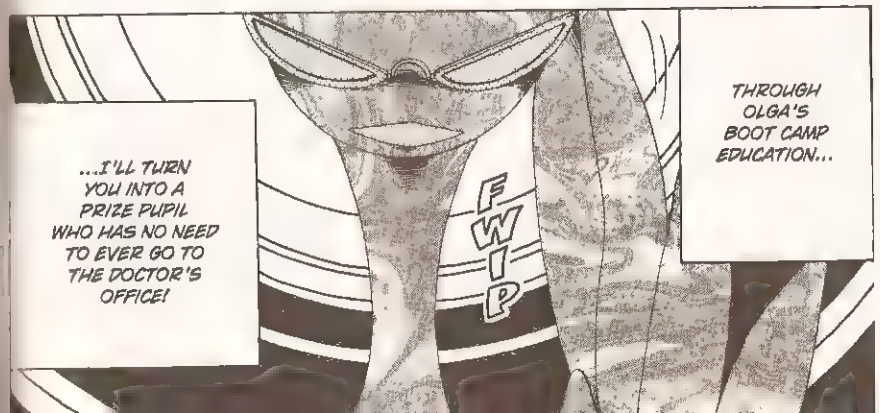
"FOUR PASS...
...FIVE FAIL."
THERE SHE IS!
CRACK
OH, YOU UNDER-STAND ...
..WHAT I'M SAYING, DON'T YOU?
GLARE
...BUT I'M SORRY FOR NOT KEEPING MY EYE ON THE BALL...
YIKES!
GIVE YOURSELF TOO MUCH SLACK, SLEEP FIVE HOURS... AND YOU'LL FAIL YOUR TEST.
ANCIENT ADVICE FOR THE POOR STUDENT. IT MEANS LIMIT YOURSELF TO FOUR HOURS OF SLEEP, WHILE YOU STUDY THE OTHER 20.
I CAN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...

STARE
WHAT'S UP WITH OLGA?!


CELLO ...
PREPARE YOUR-SELF.


AND SO, THAT'S WHY..
IT IS WHAT IT IS
STARTING TODAY, YOU'RE SITTING...
...AT THE HEAD OF THE CLASS.
ARENA SEATING !!


NEXT ...
TAK
TAK
TAK

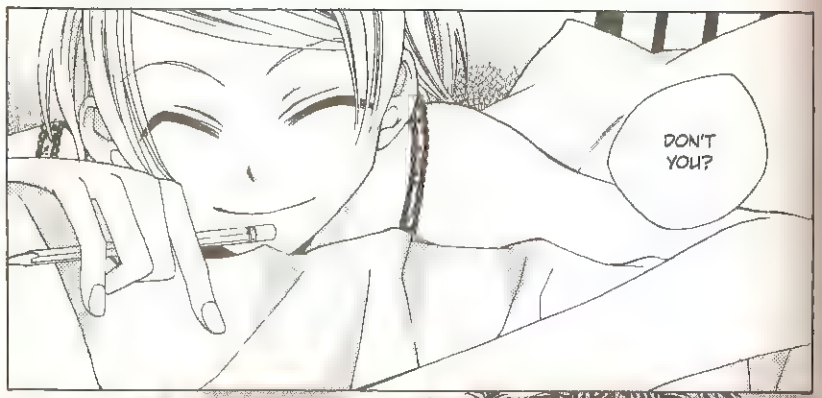

...I'LL TURN YOU INTO A PRIZE PUPIL WHO HAS NO NEED TO EVER GO TO THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE!
FWIP
THROUGH OLGA'S BOOT CAMP EDUCATION...

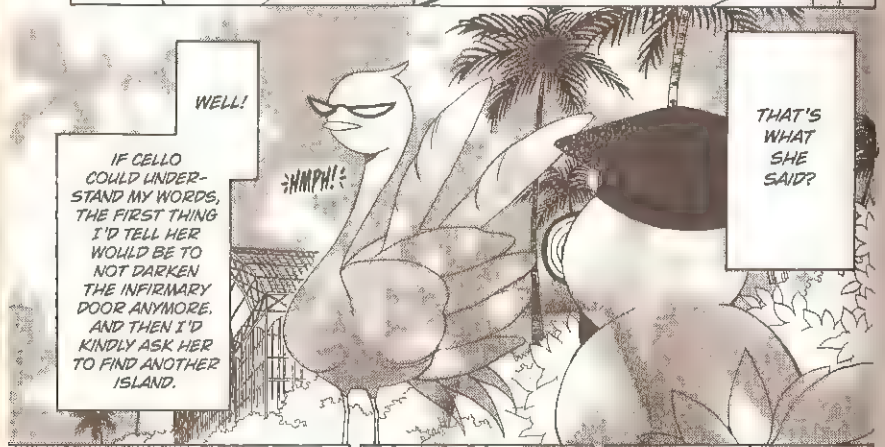
6

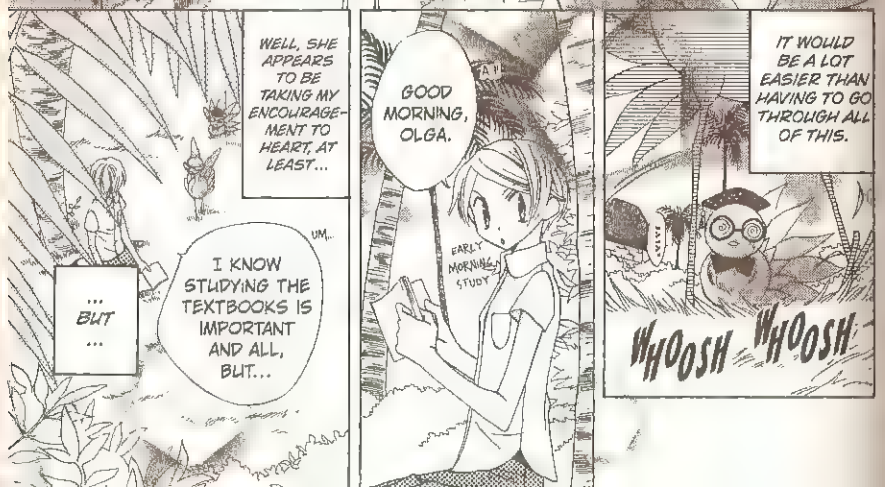
PETS 1

I GOT A LETTER THAT INCLUDED A PHOTO OF THE WRITER'S PET PARAKEET. WHEN I WAS A KID, I HAD A COUPLE OF BUDGERIGARS... WHICH I CARELESSLY LET ESCAPE AND DIE, RESPECTIVELY. I ALSO HAD A RABBIT ONCE, BUT IT ALWAYS ESCAPED ITS PEN BY GNAWING THROUGH THE WIRE NETTING. MORE THAN ONCE, A NEIGHBOR CAUGHT IT AND DELIVERED IT BACK TO OUR HOUSE. I SWEAR, I'M SO CAREFUL...

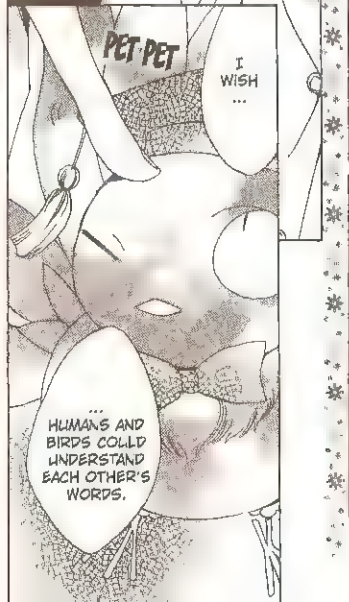
WHAT?!
YOU WANT TO TELL ME NOT TO BULLY CELLO?
WHAP!
SILENCE, PIPSQUEAK!!
I'VE NEVER SEEN CELLO HIT THE BOOKS LIKE THIS BEFORE.
HUH
TAP TAP
WHAT LIT THE FIRE UNDER HER BUTT?
FLUTTER
ALIS HA BEAD FEATHERS!
DO YOU DISAGREE?
FOR CELLO'S GRADES TO GO UP!
FOR THERE TO BE MORE DISTANCE BETWEEN HER AND DR. GUELL!
SHAKE SHAKE...
I THOUGHT NOT. IN THAT CASE...
LAVISHING HER WITH CHILDISH KINDNESS DOES NO GOOD!
I'M SURE WE BOTH WANT THE SAME THINGS, YOYO...
FLUTTER

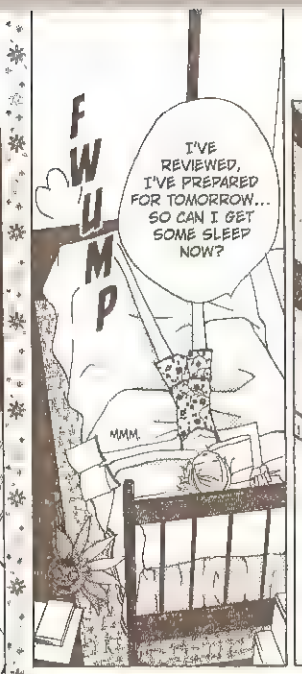

DON'T YOU?

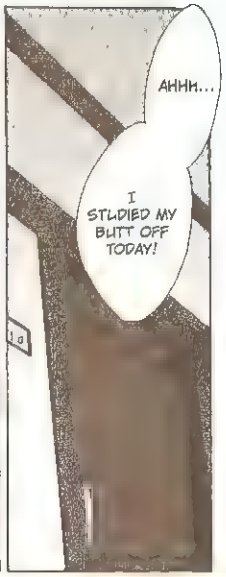

WELL!
IF CELLO COULD UNDERSTAND MY WORDS, THE FIRST THING I'D TELL HER WOULD BE TO NOT DARKEN THE INFIRMARY DOOR ANYMORE. AND THEN I'D KINDLY ASK HER TO FIND ANOTHER ISLAND.
=HMPH!=
THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID?

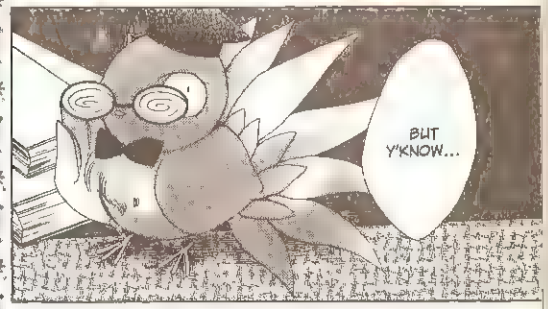

WELL, SHE APPEARS TO BE TAKING MY ENCOURAGEMENT TO HEART, AT LEAST...
...BUT...
UM..
I KNOW STUDYING THE TEXTBOOKS IS IMPORTANT AND ALL, BUT...
GOOD MORNING, OLGA.
EARLY MORNING STUDY
IT WOULD BE A LOT EASIER THAN HAVING TO GO THROUGH ALL OF THIS.
WHOOSH WHOOSH

AS FOR OLGA...
...UNTIL NOW, SHE'S NEVER DONE ANYTHING EXCEPT INTIMIDATE ME.
I WONDER WHAT MADE HER HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART?


PET PET
I WISH...
...HUMANS AND BIRDS COULD UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S WORDS.


FWUMP
I'VE REVIEWED, I'VE PREPARED FOR TOMORROW... SO CAN I GET SOME SLEEP NOW?
MMM.


AHHH...
I STUDIED MY BUTT OFF TODAY!


BUT Y'KNOW...

...YOU'VE BEEN GETTING A LOT TOUGHER ON ME, YOYO. ALTHOUGH I CAN SEE WHY...
YOU DON'T WANT ME TO FLUNK FIRST YEAR AGAIN EITHER, DO YOU?

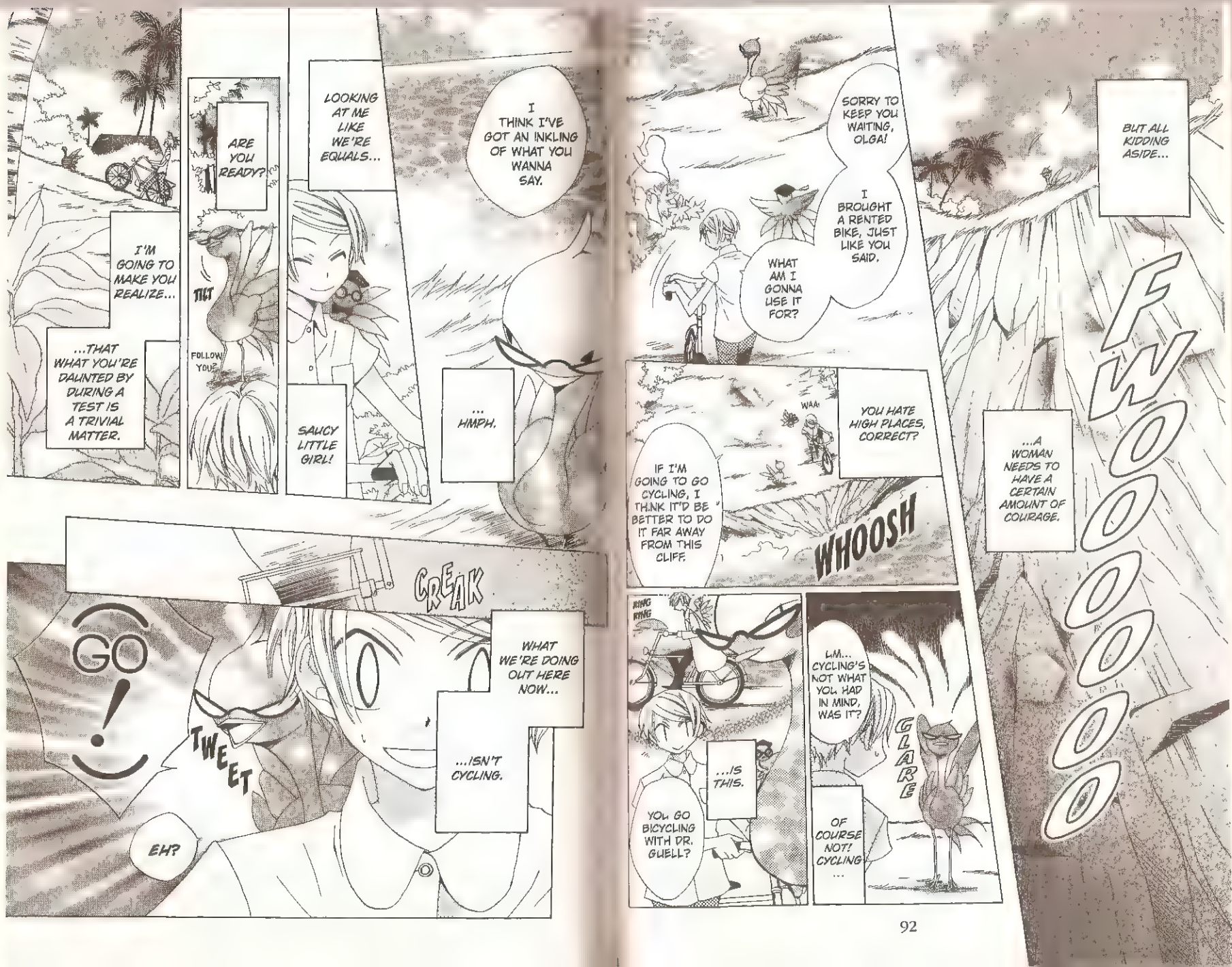
7

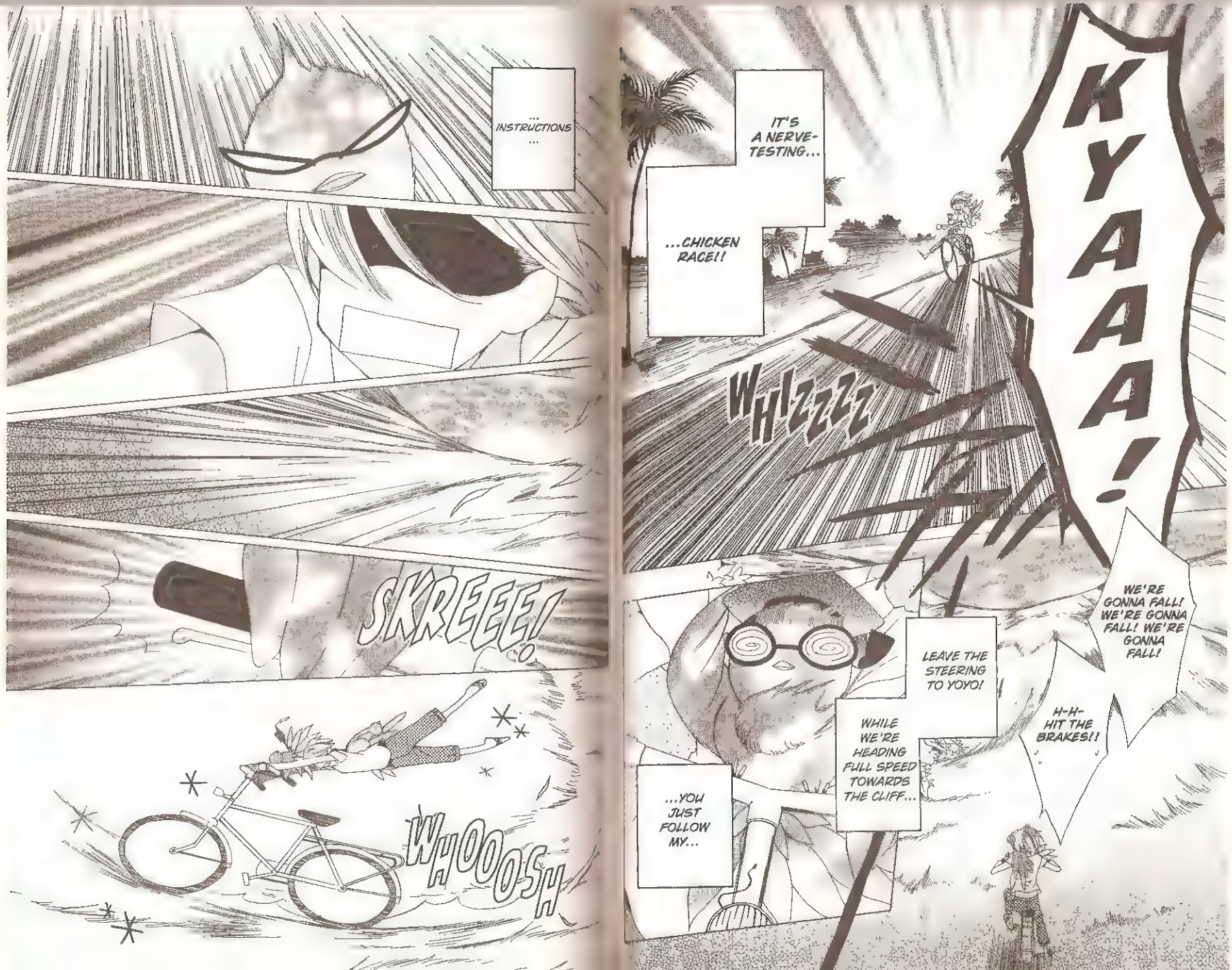
PETS 2

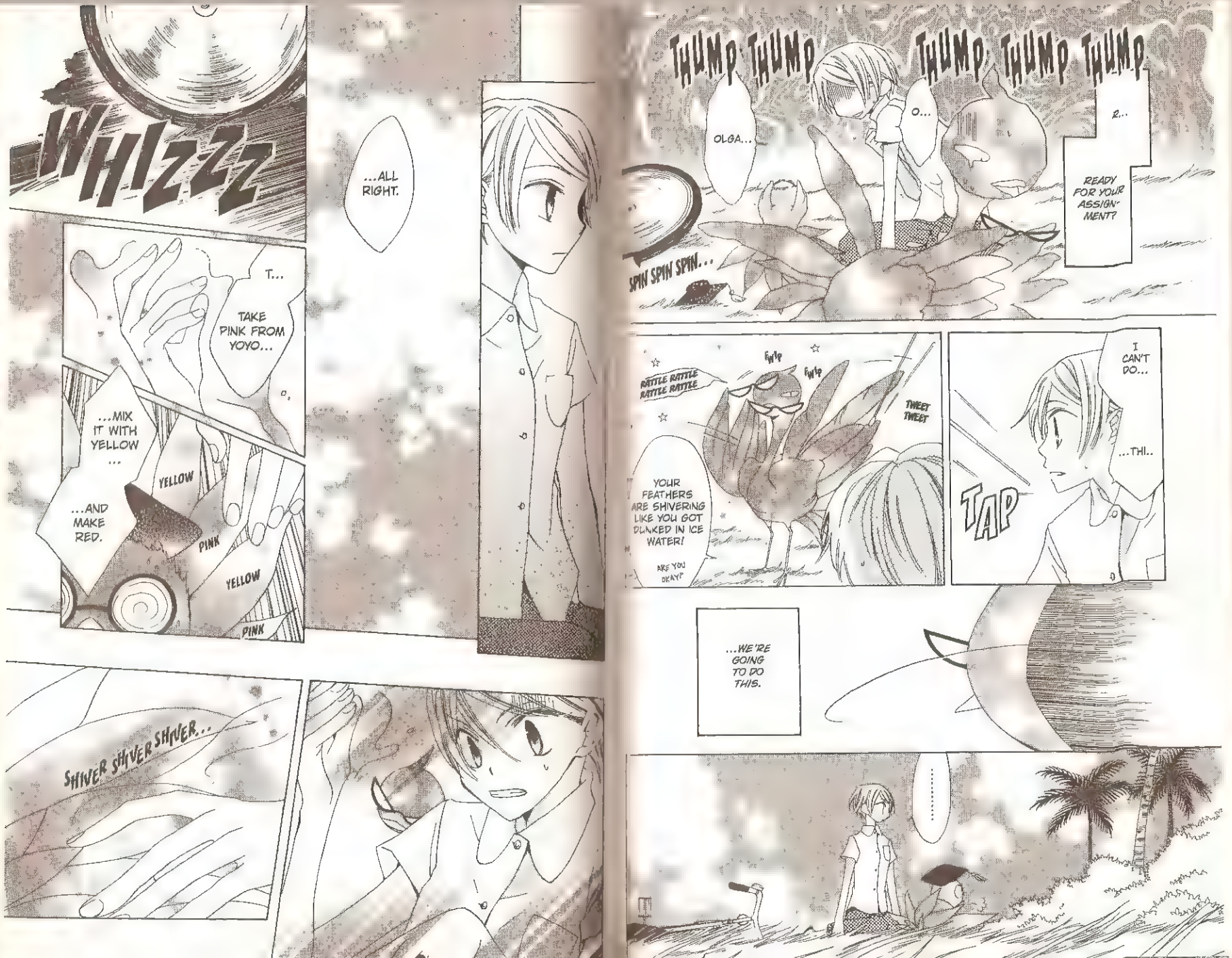
I HAD THIS GOLDFISH THAT GREW TO BE THE SIZE OF A CARP. AT FIRST, HE WAS RED AND WHITE SPECKLED, BUT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, HE LOST ALL HIS RED, SO I COULDN'T RIGHTLY CALL HIM A "GOLDFISH" ANY MORE. GOLDFISH CAN LIVE LONG LIVES, I'M TOLD, BUT MINE'S LONG GONE. I CALLED HIM "LINGONBERRY".

SLUMP
I'VE NEVER BEEN A CONFIDENT PERSON TO BEGIN WITH.
DON'T ESPECIALLY HAVE ANYTHING TO BE PROUD ABOUT...
GOT THAT RIGHT.
IT'S LIKE I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HOW WEAK MY ABILITY IS.
WHENEVER I'VE USED IT IN SOME KIND OF EMERGENCY SITUATION, THERE'S NEVER BEEN TIME TO STOP AND WORRY ABOUT MESSING UP.
BUT IN CLASS, I OBSESS OVER THE POSSIBILITIES OF FAILURE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT HAS 12 COLORS TO MASTER.
A SECOND YEAR STUDENT HAS 24 AND A THIRD-YEAR HAS 36
PRECISELY!!
...MY PROBLEM IS PRACTICAL TRAINING!!
USING THE COLORS TAKEN FROM A BIRD'S FEATHERS...
...THE NOVICE PALETTE MUST PRODUCE THE 12 BASIC COLORS.
ON THE BORDERLINE BETWEEN SQUEAKING BY AND ABJECT FAILURE...
OH, DEAR...
RECENTLY, I'VE FINALLY CLEARED ABOUT HALF OF THE FIRST 12 COLORS.
BY THE WAY, DURING LAST YEAR'S FINAL EXAM, I COULDN'T EVEN PAINT WITH ONE COLOR BEFORE I SCREWED UP.
...BUT THAT ISN'T AS EASY AS IT SOUNDS.
DR. GUELL TOLD ME TO HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF...


I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU REALIZE...
...THAT WHAT YOU'RE DAUNTED BY DURING A TEST IS A TRIVIAL MATTER.
ARE YOU READY?
TILT
FOLLOW YOU?
LOOKING AT ME LIKE WE'RE EQUALS...
SAUCY LITTLE GIRL!
I THINK I'VE GOT AN INKLING OF WHAT YOU WANNA SAY.
... HMPH.
CREAK
GO!
TWEET
EH?
WHAT WE'RE DOING OUT HERE NOW...
...ISN'T CYCLING.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, OLGA!
I BROUGHT A RENTED BIKE, JUST LIKE YOU SAID.
WHAT AM I GONNA USE IT FOR?
WAA!
YOU HATE HIGH PLACES, CORRECT?
IF I'M GOING TO GO CYCLING, I THINK IT'D BE BETTER TO DO IT FAR AWAY FROM THIS CLIFF.
WHOOSH
RING RING
YOU GO BICYCLING WITH DR. GUELL?
...IS THIS.
HM... CYCLING'S NOT WHAT YOU HAD IN MIND, WAS IT?
GLARE
OF COURSE NOT! CYCLING ...
BUT ALL KIDDING ASIDE...
...A WOMAN NEEDS TO HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF COURAGE.
FWOOOOOOO


...
INSTRUCTIONS
...
SKREEE!
WHOOOSH
IT'S A NERVE-TESTING...
...CHICKEN RACE!!
WHIZZZZ
KYAAA!
WE'RE GONNA FALL! WE'RE GONNA FALL! WE'RE GONNA FALL!
H-H-HIT THE BRAKES!!
LEAVE THE STEERING TO YOYO!
WHILE WE'RE HEADING FULL SPEED TOWARDS THE CLIFF...
...YOU JUST FOLLOW MY...

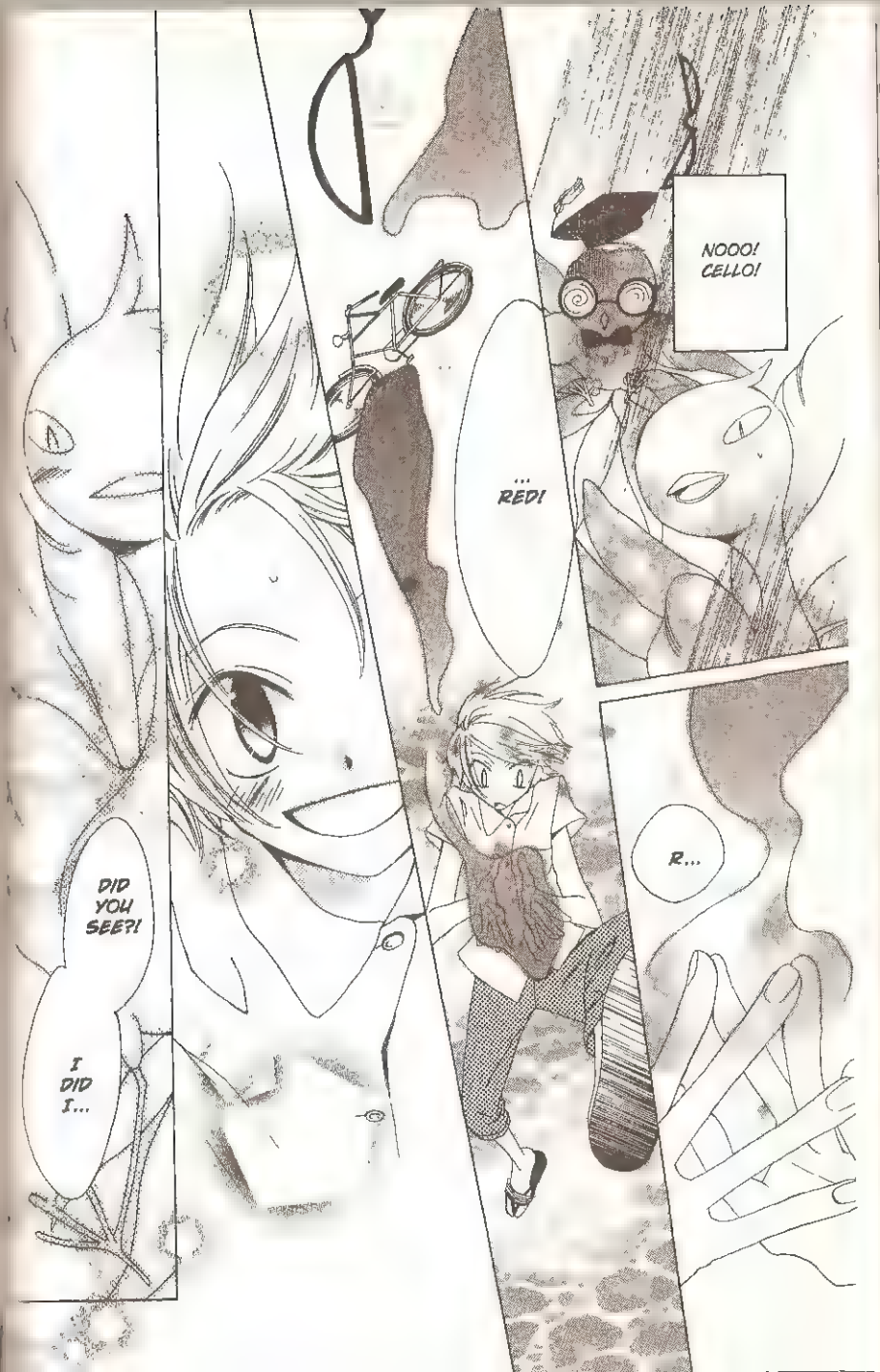

WHIZZZ
T...
TAKE PINK FROM YOYO...
...MIX IT WITH YELLOW ...
...AND MAKE RED.
YELLOW
PINK
YELLOW
PINK
...ALL RIGHT.
SHIVER SHIVER SHIVER...
THUMP THUMP
THUMP THUMP THUMP
OLGA...
O...
R...
READY FOR YOUR ASSIGN-MENT?
SPIN SPIN SPIN...
RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE
FWIP
FWIP
TWEET TWEET
YOUR FEATHERS ARE SHIVERING LIKE YOU GOT DUNKED IN ICE WATER!
ARE YOU OKAY?
I CAN'T DO...
...THI..
TAP
...WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS.
.....

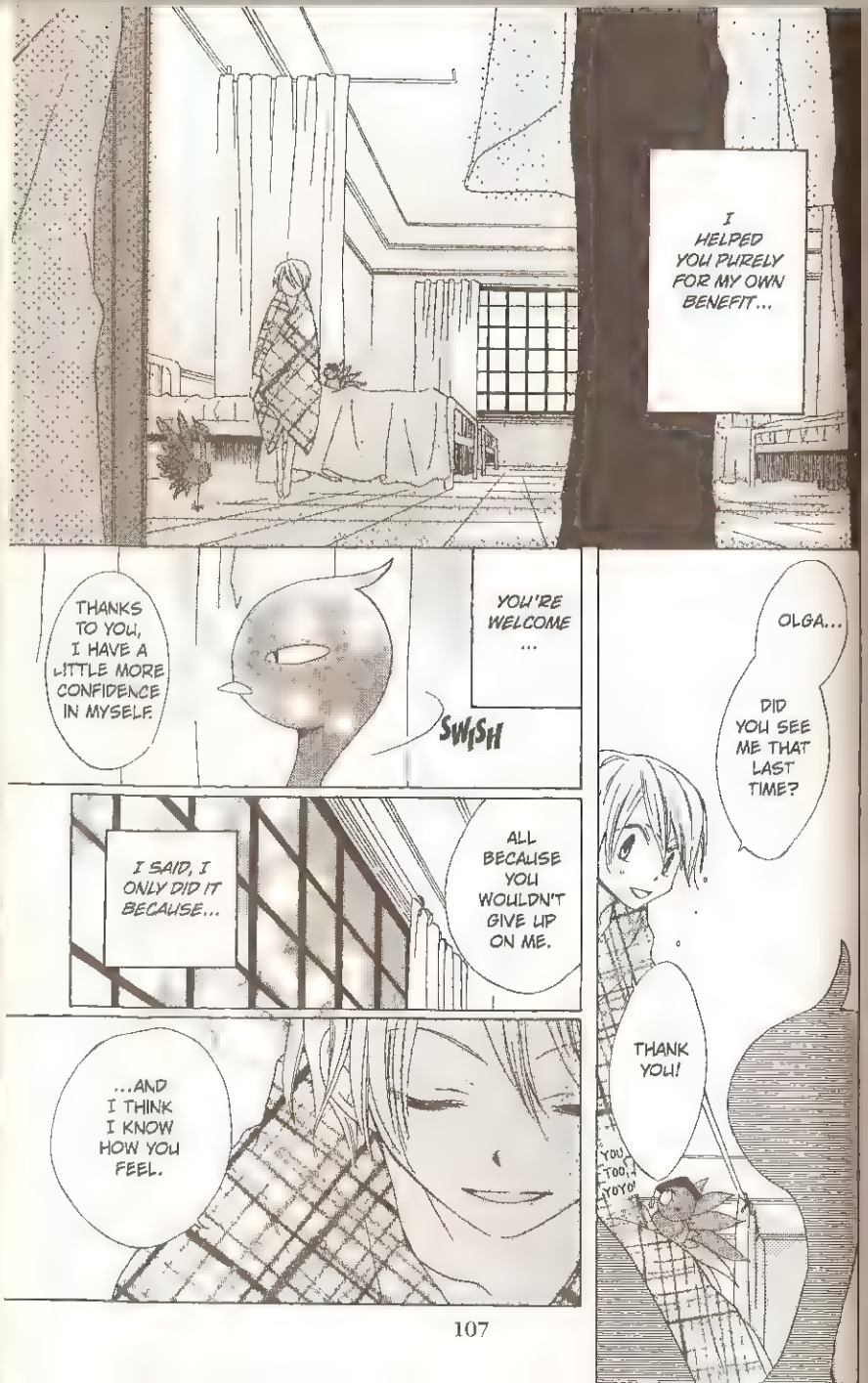
OH, I WAS AWAKE.
DR. GUELL, WHEN LEAVING THE MEETING ROOM...
...COULD YOU STOP ACTING LIKE YOU SLEPT SOUNDLY IN THERE?
BUZZ
BUZZ
WHIZZZ
I WOULDN'T PAY SO MUCH ATTENTION IF YOU WERE MORE ATTENTIVE. HOW DO YOU THINK IT LOOKS IN FRONT OF THE STUDENTS? IF I WERE IN YOUR SHOES, I WOULD DON'T YOU THINK? GO WITH YOUR GUT FEELING.
ONCE HE GETS HOLD OF A GUY, HE JUST KEEPS DRONING ON AND ON AND ON...
I BEG TO DIFFER. YOUR EYELIDS CLOSED FOR SEVERAL SECONDS AT LEAST ONCE EVERY FEW MINUTES. BELIEVE ME, I KEPT A RUNNING TALLY.
正 正 正 正 下
FROM NOW ON, I'D LIKE YOU TO HAVE A MORE ACTIVE PRESENCE DURING MEETINGS...
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE ARE DOING IN THE MEETING.
...LIKE ME, THE ACADEMIC MANAGER.
YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE...
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
WHOOSH
WHOOSH

PLUCK
WHOO
OOO
WAAA-!
SSSH
SKREEE
ONE MORE TIME.
HOO...
SORRY...
...YOYO.
WHOOSH
HUFF
WHOOOO
WAAAA-!
OOSH
ONE
ONE MORE TIME
MIX WITH YELLOW
TAKE PINK...
WHIZZZ

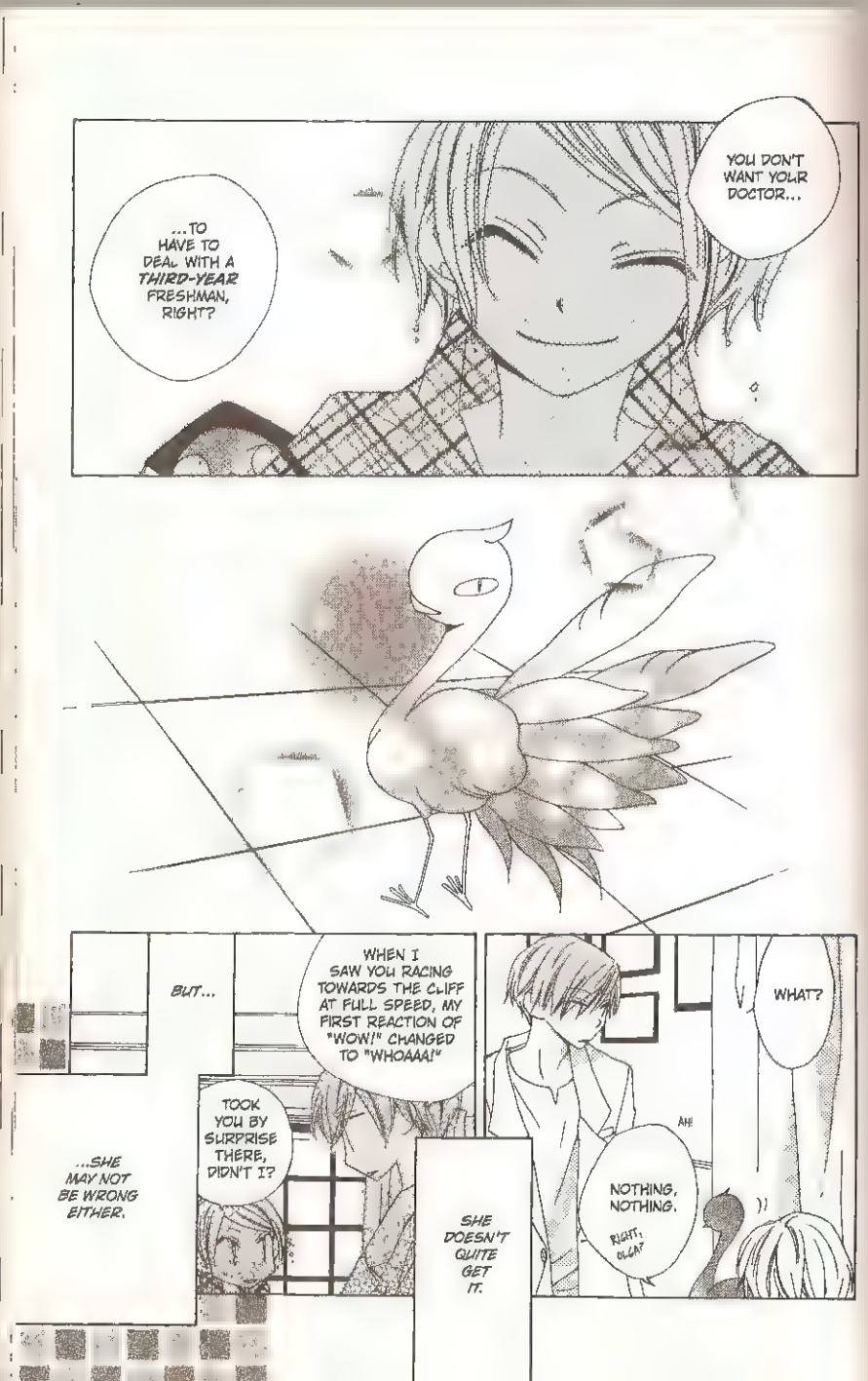
WHIZZ
ZZZ
GET PINK!
MIX WITH YELLOW!
RED...
SKREE
OH...
A TEACHER ...
HEY!
SHE'LL GET KILLED
EH?
WHOOSH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
!
SHE WENT OVER!

AHEM ...
KOFF
SPLOOSH
FIRST OF ALL, YOU WERE VERY FORTUNATE THAT YOU DIDN'T GET HURT.
YES, SIR.
BUT BE THAT AS IT MAY, I CAN'T COMPREHEND...
...WHAT DROVE YOU TO RIDE A BICYCLE OFF A CLIFF AND PLUNGE INTO THE SEA.
AND MAKING MATTERS WORSE, YOU TOOK THIS TOWN'S TREASURES WITH YOU...
...TWO OF THEM!
WHAT IF SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED TO THEM? HOW WOULD YOU HAVE TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY?
...I'M SORRY.


NOOO! CELLO!
...RED!
R...
DID YOU SEE?!
I DID I...


I HELPED YOU PURELY FOR MY OWN BENEFIT...
THANKS TO YOU, I HAVE A LITTLE MORE CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF.
YOU'RE WELCOME ...
SWISH
I SAID, I ONLY DID IT BECAUSE...
ALL BECAUSE YOU WOULDN'T GIVE UP ON ME.
...AND I THINK I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
OLGA...
DID YOU SEE ME THAT LAST TIME?
THANK YOU!
YOU TOO, YOYO!

AN EXAM STRATEGY?! THAT?!
IT WAS AN EXAM STRATEGY.
TO KIND OF BUILD UP MY CONFIDENCE ...
YOU HAVE NO REASON TO BE SCOLDED...
... CELLO.
WHY DON'T YOU SAY THAT I PUT YOU UP TO IT?
AND ALL SO YOU COULD PLAY "STUNTGIRL" ...
AH!
I WASN'T PLAYING.
I LIKED YOUR SMILE OF SUCCESS.
AT THE END THERE, IT LOOKED LIKE YOU MADE A LITTLE PROGRESS, SO WHAT DOES THE REST MATTER?
I...

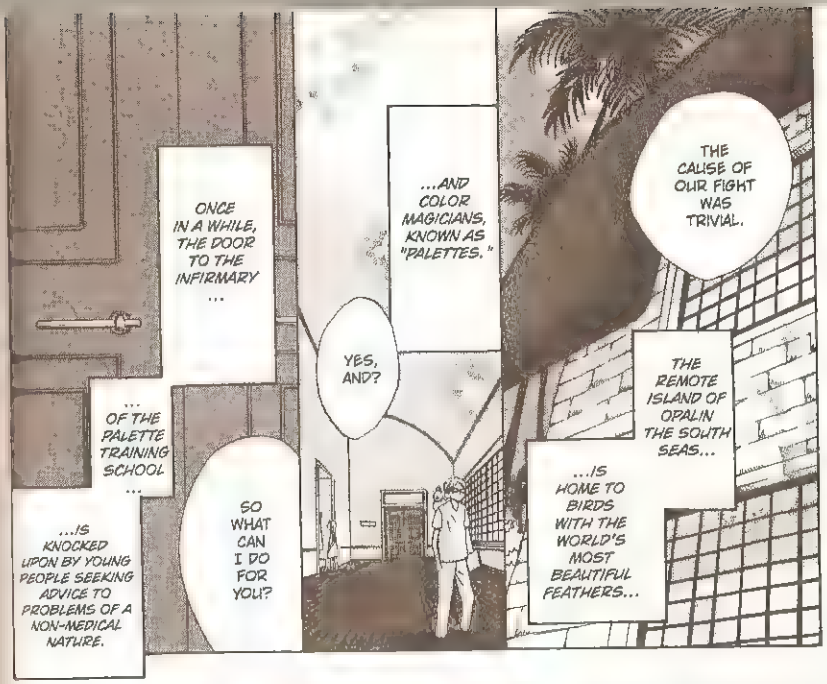

...TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH A THIRD-YEAR FRESHMAN, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T WANT YOUR DOCTOR...
BUT...
WHEN I SAW YOU RACING TOWARDS THE CLIFF AT FULL SPEED, MY FIRST REACTION OF "WOW!" CHANGED TO "WHOAAA!"
WHAT?
TOOK YOU BY SURPRISE THERE, DIDN'T I?
AH!
NOTHING, NOTHING.
RIGHT, OLGA?
...SHE MAY NOT BE WRONG EITHER.
SHE DOESN'T QUITE GET IT.

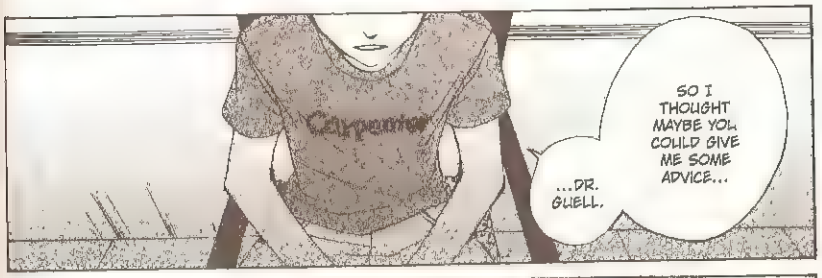
HOW CAN YOU SIT THERE AND SMILE LIKE THAT...
...AFTER REALIZING...
...FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART...
...THAT DEEP DOWN...
...THAT THE WHOLE PLAN WAS ABOUT MY EGO?
CELLO...
EVEN WHEN YOUR FEATHERS WERE QUIVERING...
...YOU KEPT ON GOING WITH THE TEST OF NERVES.
THAT'S WHEN I FIGURED, OLGA...
NEVER MIND!
IS THAT ALL?
...YOU WERE REALLY WORRIED THAT I WOULD HAVE TO REPEAT FRESHMAN YEAR YET AGAIN.

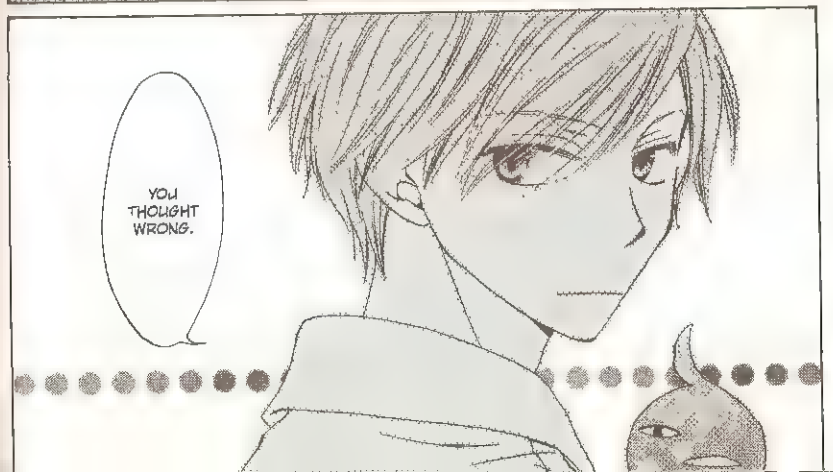
The Palette of 12 Secret Colors
じゅうにひそく
十二秘色のパレット
EPISODE 11

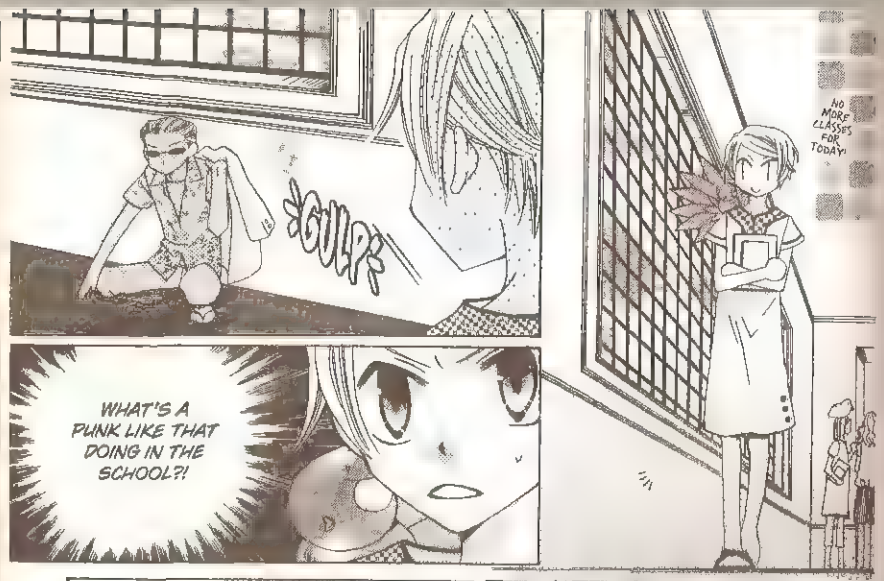
SHAKE SHAKE SHAKE
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN...
THAT'S WHY...
...WHEN IT COMES TO DR. GUELL...
IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT I DON'T HAVE THE WORDS TO TELL HIM HOW I FEEL.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO KEEP QUIET...
...AND STEP OUT OF THE PICTURE.
I'M GOING TO CONTINUE STICKING LIKE GLUE TO YOU ... AS YOUR TUTOR...
...CELLO...
THAK
...SO YOU BECOME THAT STAR STUDENT WHO NEVER SEES THE INSIDE OF THE INFIRMARY.
BUT FROM NOW ON, A LITTLE PART OF ME...
...WILL BE PRAYING FOR YOU...
...FOR YOUR SAKE.

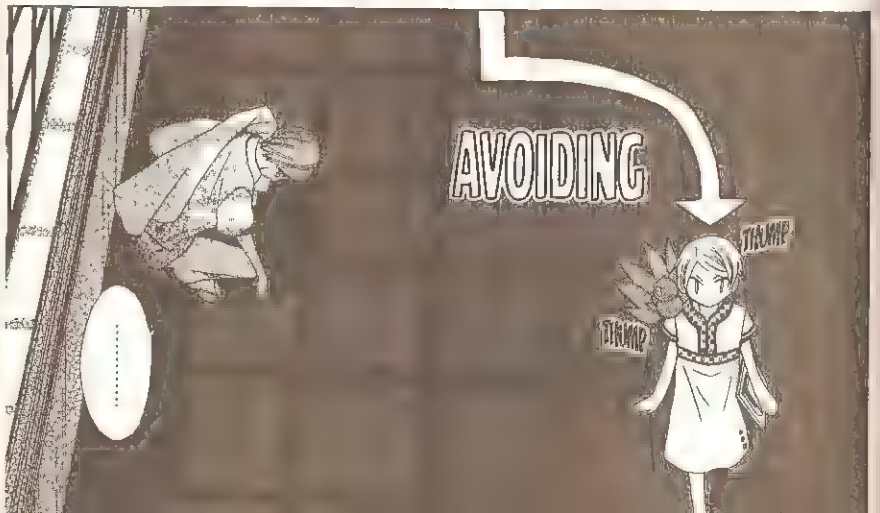
BET I DON'T LOOK LIKE A PARENT NOW, HUH?!
SWISH
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW YOU LOOK, YOU ARE A PARENT! AND I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO HAVE TO REPORT YOUR VISIT TO CELLO.
READ WHAT I SAID ON THE BOTTOM OF THE LAST PAGE.
ADVISEE: THEO
AGE: 37
REMARKS: CELLO'S FATHER
OH, DON'T BE SO HARD-HEARTED!
YOU GOTTA HELP ME, DOC!
OKAY?
TURN
I DON'T MIND TALKING TO YOUNG PEOPLE WITH PROBLEMS! PARENTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE FALL OUTSIDE OF MY EXPERTISE.
I DON'T WANT TO BECOME THE ARBITER OF ANY DOMESTIC DISPUTE.
NOT MY PROBLEM!
FEEL LIKE I COULD DIE OF LONELINESS!
CLAVIS HASN'T SPOKEN TO ME...
...FOR THREE DAYS!
CELLO'S MOTHER
I HAVE A THING FOR COLD PEOPLE, BUT PLEASE!
GIVE ME A HAND!
GRAB
...WHAT YOU WOULD DO IF THE PERSON YOU LOVED STOPPED TALKING TO YOU?!
TRY TO IMAGINE...
GUELL'S SEE


ONCE IN A WHILE, THE DOOR TO THE INFIRMARY ...
...AND COLOR MAGICIANS, KNOWN AS "PALETTES."
THE CAUSE OF OUR FIGHT WAS TRIVIAL.
... OF THE PALETTE TRAINING SCHOOL ...
YES, AND?
THE REMOTE ISLAND OF OPAL IN THE SOUTH SEAS...
...IS KNOCKED UPON BY YOUNG PEOPLE SEEKING ADVICE TO PROBLEMS OF A NON-MEDICAL NATURE.
SO WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
...IS HOME TO BIRDS WITH THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL FEATHERS...


SO I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD GIVE ME SOME ADVICE...
...DR. GUELL.


YOU THOUGHT WRONG.


NO MORE CLASSES FOR TODAY.
GULP
WHAT'S A PUNK LIKE THAT DOING IN THE SCHOOL?!


AVOIDING
THUMP
THUMP
.....

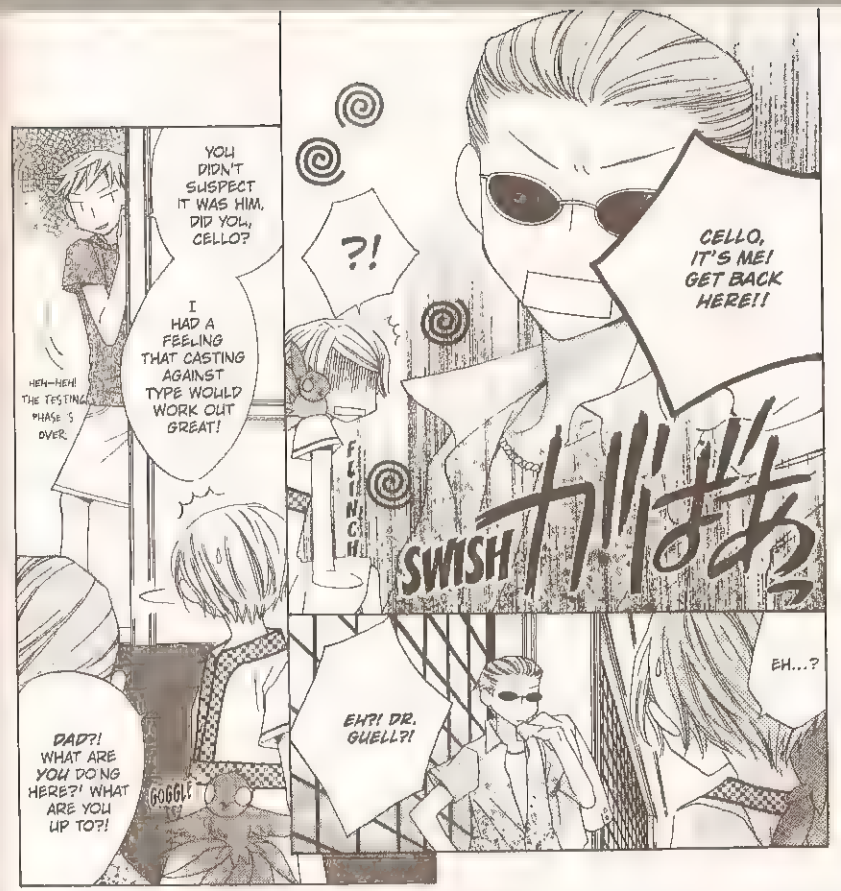
...THREE MONTHS?
THREE MONTHS?! THE RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE OVER BY THEN! BETTER BE CAREFUL IT DOESN'T HAPPEN TO YOU!!
OKAY, HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE YOU TO THROW .N THE TOWEL?
WELL, THAT'S YOU, DOCTOR!
FOR THREE DAYS...? I'D BE FINE.

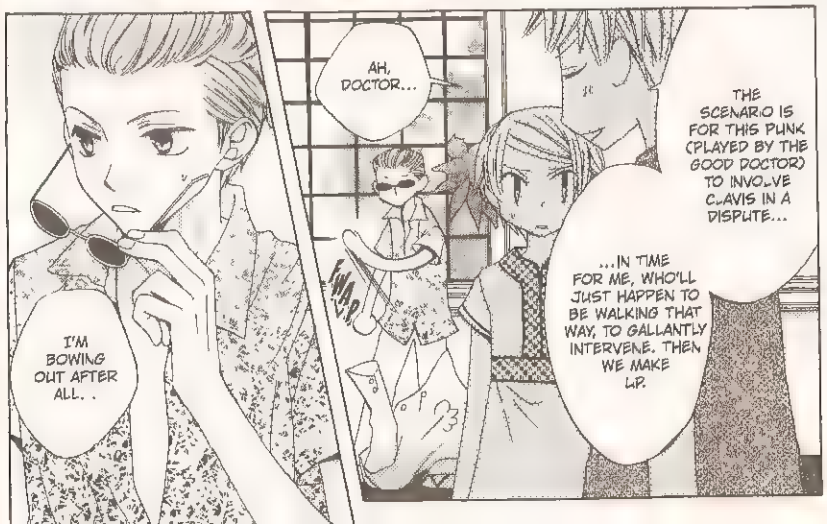
IS THIS TRULY NECESSARY?
IT'S TRLLY NECESSARY!
FINE.
ROLL
I ALREADY THOUGHT OF A PLAN TO GET US BACK TOGETHER!
ALL I NEED NOW IS A CO-CONSPIRATOR!
SO P.LEASE, DOCTOR! LOOK IN YOUR HEART!
CLAP

8

PETS 3

WHEN I WAS IN SIXTH GRADE, A RELATIVE GAVE ME TWO TURTLES, WHICH I STILL HAVE. SOMETIMES THEY'RE CLEVER, GETTING ALL EXCITED WHEN PEOPLE GO BY THEM BECAUSE THEY THINK THEY'RE GOING TO BE FED. BUT THEY DON'T DIFFERENTIATE FOOD FROM FINGERS, AS THEY'LL OPEN THEIR MOUTHS WIDE AND CHASE AFTER YOUR DIGITS IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE. THEY'RE FASTER THAN THE COMMON PERCEPTION OF TURTLES AND ARE ADEPT AT RIGHTING THEMSELVES IF THEY'RE TURNED OVER ON THEIR BACK. THEY'RE KNOWN AS GRASS TURTLES.

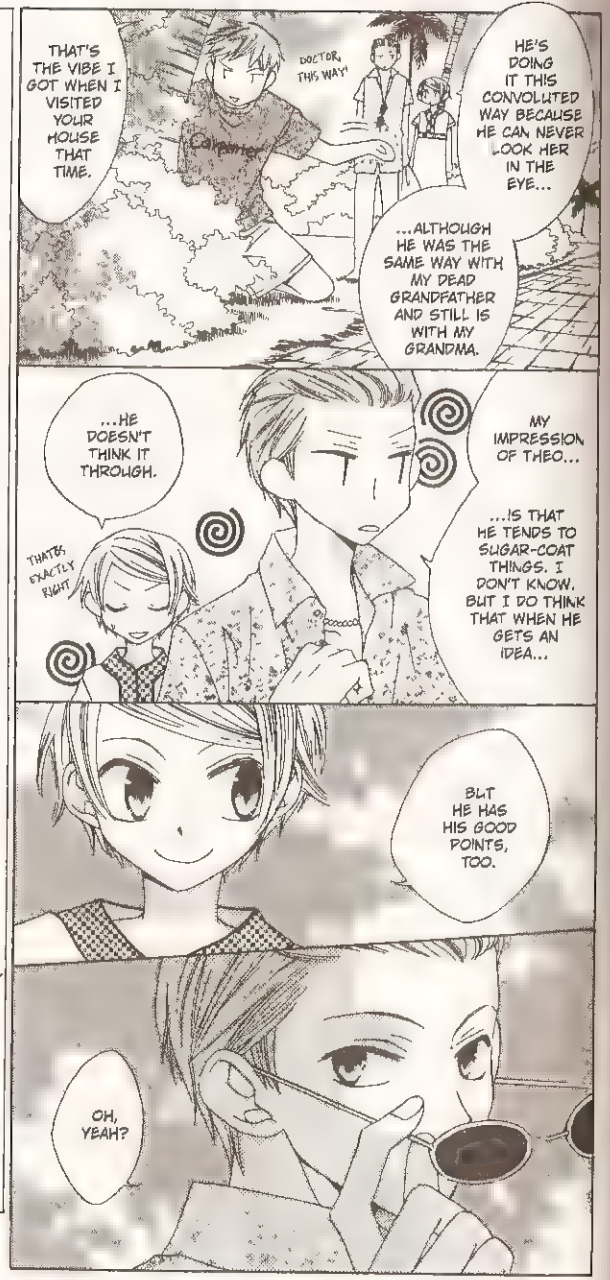

YOU DIDN'T SUSPECT IT WAS HIM, DID YOU, CELLO?
I HAD A FEELING THAT CASTING AGAINST TYPE WOULD WORK OUT GREAT!
HEH-HEH! THE TESTING PHASE IS OVER.
DAD?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?!
GOGGL
?!
FLINCH
CELLO, IT'S ME! GET BACK HERE!!
SWISH
EH?! DR. GUELL?!
EH...?

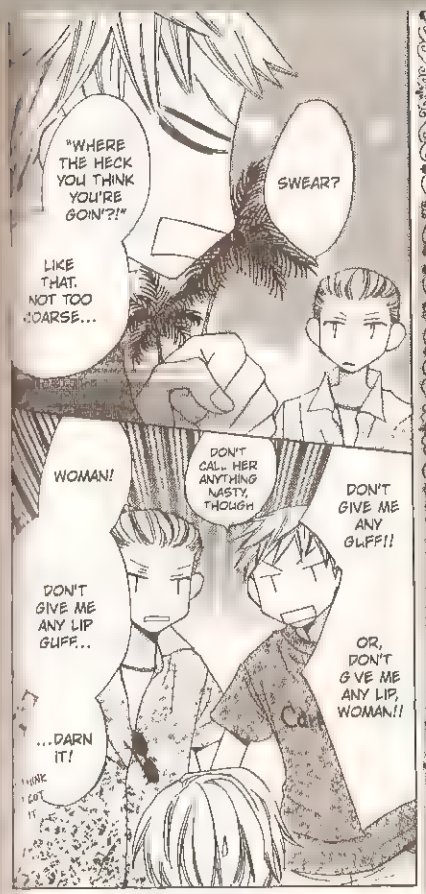

I'M BOWING OUT AFTER ALL. .
AH, DOCTOR...
SWAP
THE SCENARIO IS FOR THIS PUNK (PLAYED BY THE GOOD DOCTOR) TO INVOLVE CLAVIS IN A DISPUTE...
...IN TIME FOR ME, WHO'LL JUST HAPPEN TO BE WALKING THAT WAY, TO GALLANTLY INTERVENE. THEN WE MAKE UP.

9

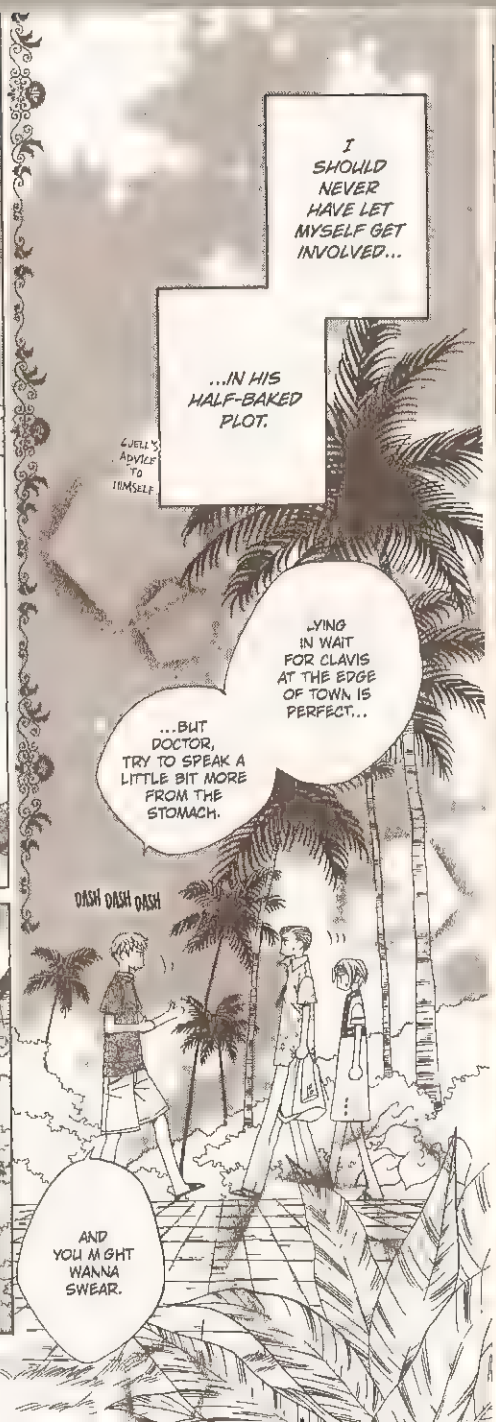
PETS 4

MY HOUSE IS (JUST BARELY) IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA. A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO, I HEARD WHAT I THOUGHT WAS SOMEBODY TRYING TO START A CAR OUTSIDE, BUT THE ENGINE JUST DIDN'T WANT TO TURN OVER. DURING THAT TIME PERIOD, I OCCASIONALLY BORROWED A CAR THAT WAS ALWAYS PARKED IN A LOCAL PARKING LOT AND HAD ENGINE TROUBLE, SO I THOUGHT MAYBE THAT WAS THE CAR IN QUESTION. BUT THEN I LISTENED MORE CAREFULLY AND REALIZED THE SOUND WAS MORE LIKE A HORSE'S NEIGH, SO I STUCK MY HEAD OUT THE WINDOW AND SAW A HORSE. HE WAS BEING RIDDEN BY A MAN ON A SADDLE AND THEY WERE JUST OUT FOR A WALK. I HAD A GOOD LAUGH OVER THAT ONE.


THAT'S THE VIBE I GOT WHEN I VISITED YOUR HOUSE THAT TIME.
DOCTOR, THIS WAY!
HE'S DOING IT THIS CONVOLUTED WAY BECAUSE HE CAN NEVER LOOK HER IN THE EYE...
...ALTHOUGH HE WAS THE SAME WAY WITH MY DEAD GRANDFATHER AND STILL IS WITH MY GRANDMA.
...HE DOESN'T THINK IT THROUGH.
THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT.
MY IMPRESSION OF THEO...
...IS THAT HE TENDS TO SUGAR-COAT THINGS. I DON'T KNOW. BUT I DO THINK THAT WHEN HE GETS AN IDEA...
BUT HE HAS HIS GOOD POINTS, TOO.
OH, YEAH?

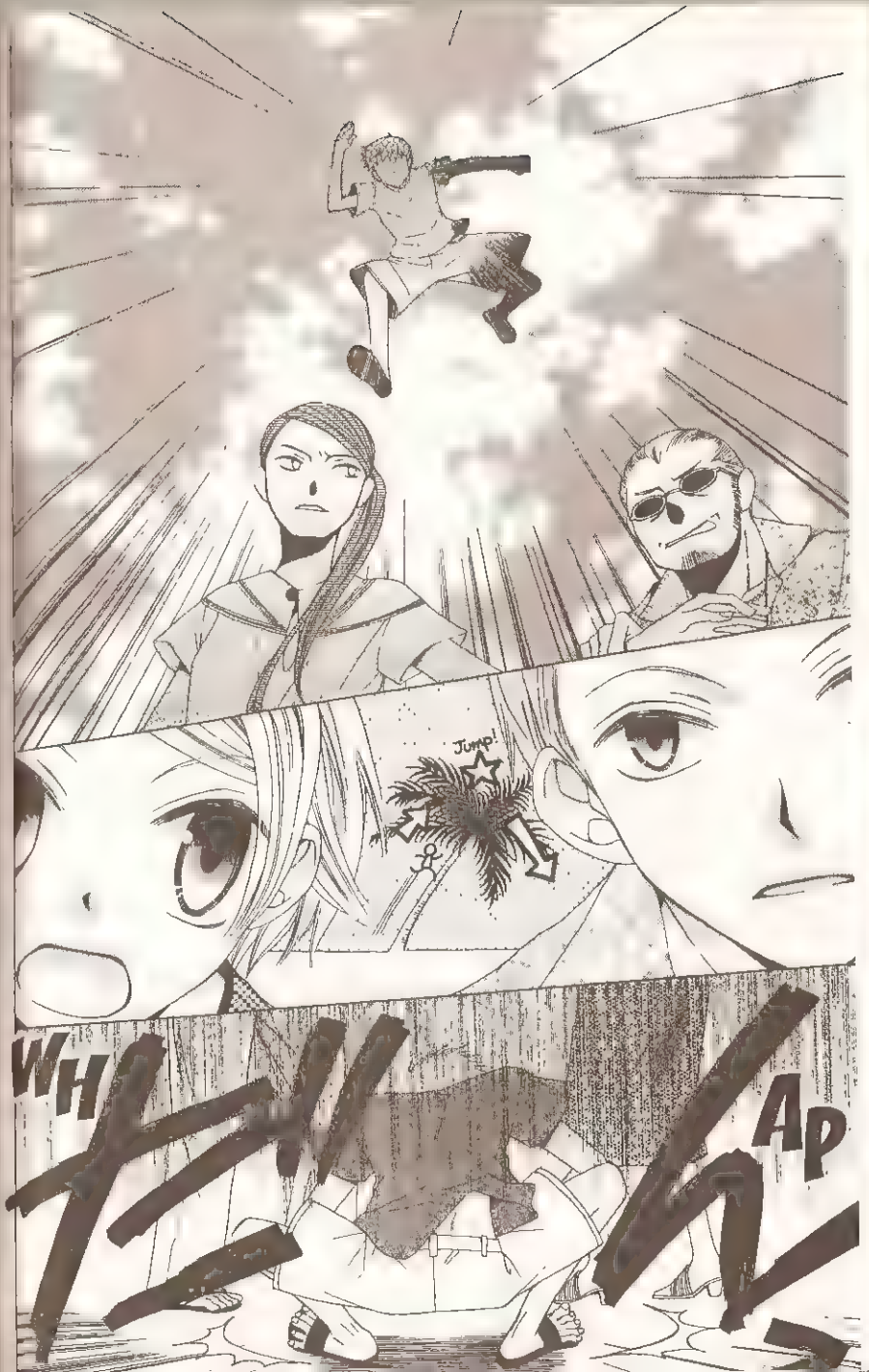

"WHERE THE HECK YOU THINK YOU'RE GOIN'?!"
LIKE THAT. NOT TOO COARSE...
SWEAR?
WOMAN!
DON'T CALL HER ANYTHING NASTY, THOUGH
DON'T GIVE ME ANY GUFF!!
DON'T GIVE ME ANY LIP GUFF...
OR, DON'T GIVE ME ANY LIP, WOMAN!!
...DARN IT!

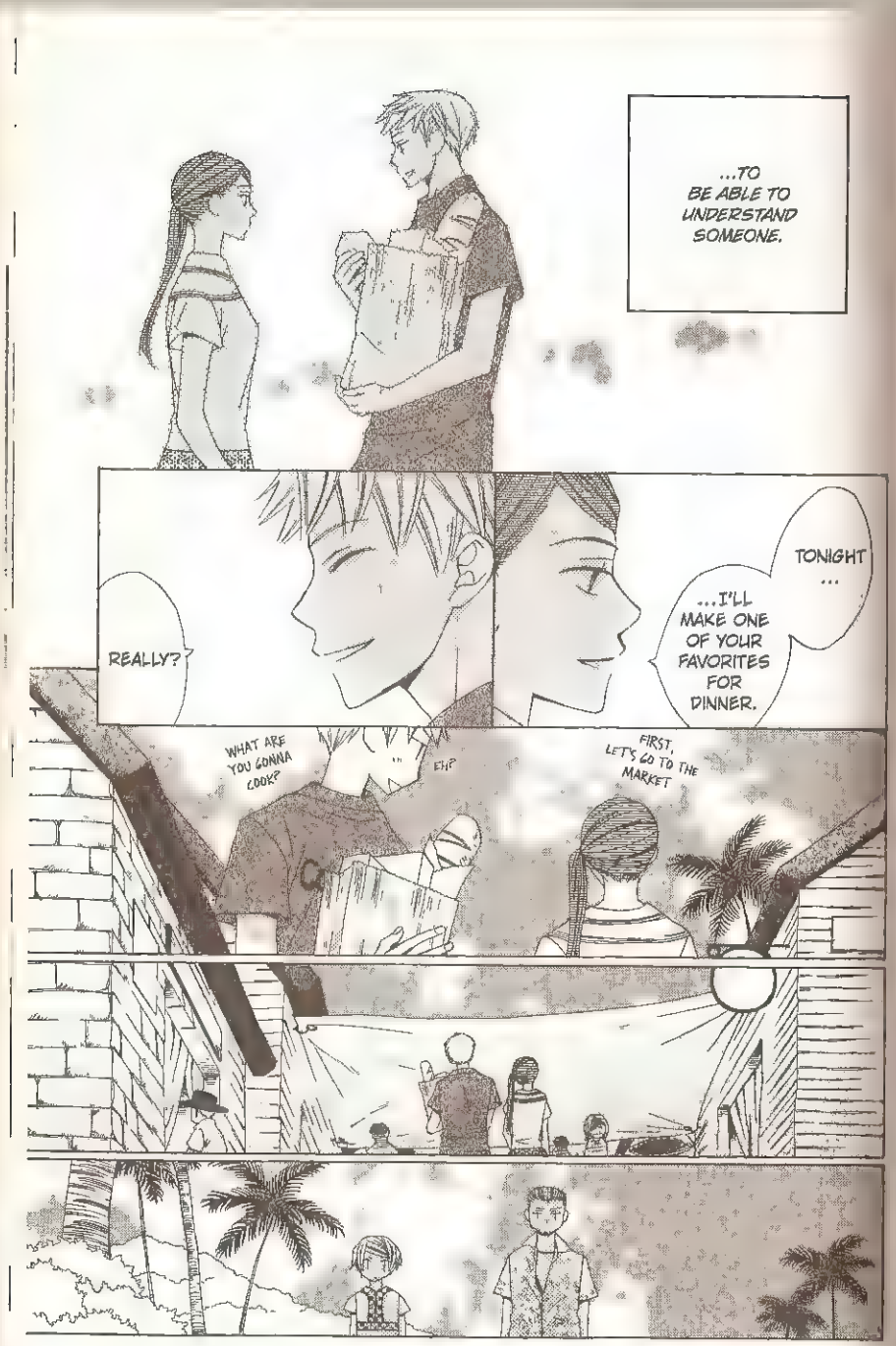
I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE AGAIN FOR MY FATHER ...
...THIS TIME FOR MAKING YOU ROLE-PLAY.
HOW DID I GET SUCKED INTO THIS AGAIN?
NOW I JUST GET INTO POSITION.
DR. GUELL ...

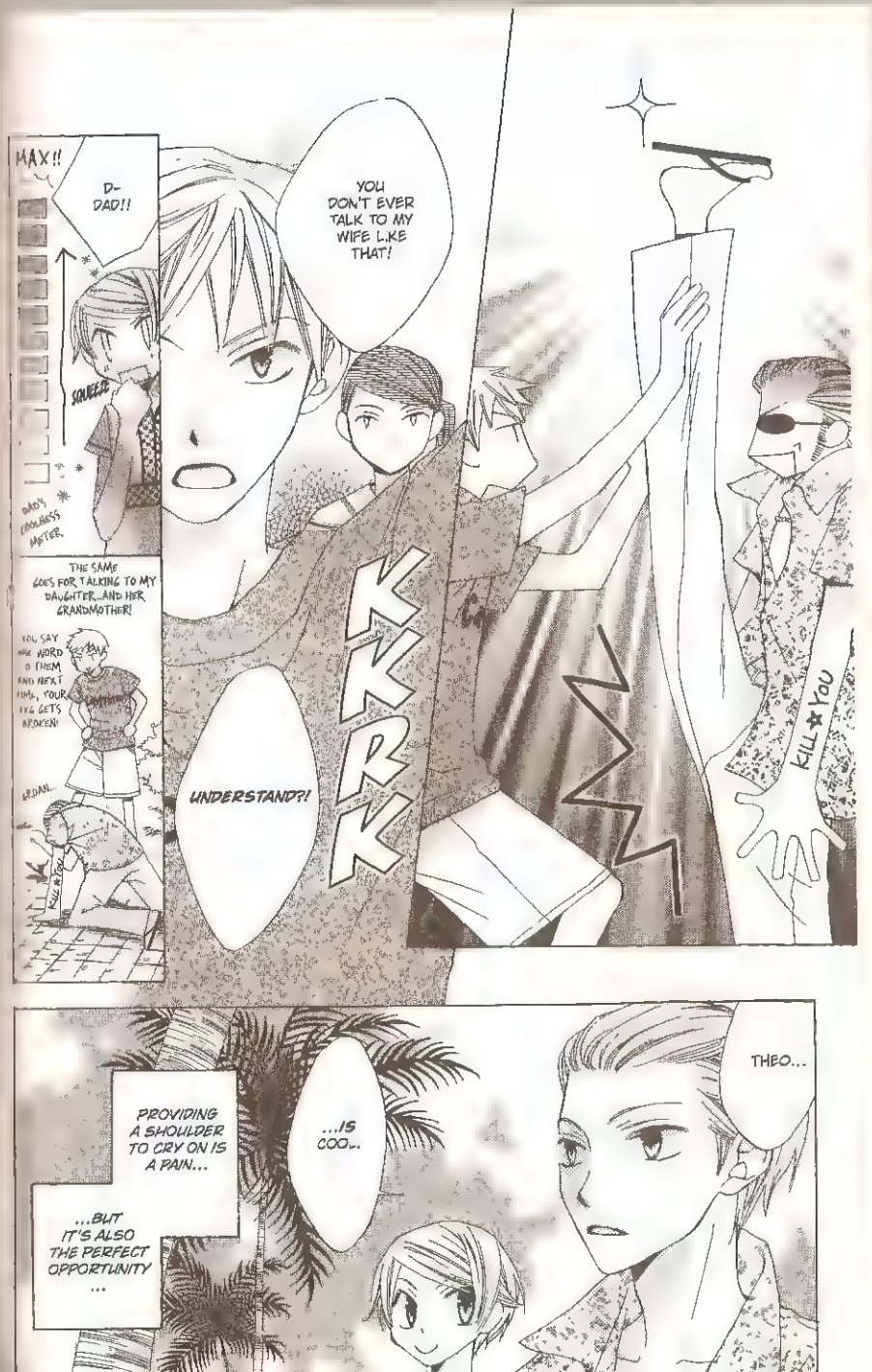

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET MYSELF GET INVOLVED...
...IN HIS HALF-BAKED PLOT.
GUELL'S ADVICE TO HIMSELF
...LYING IN WAIT FOR CLAVIS AT THE EDGE OF TOWN IS PERFECT...
...BUT DOCTOR, TRY TO SPEAK A LITTLE BIT MORE FROM THE STOMACH.
DASH DASH DASH
AND YOU MIGHT WANNA SWEAR.

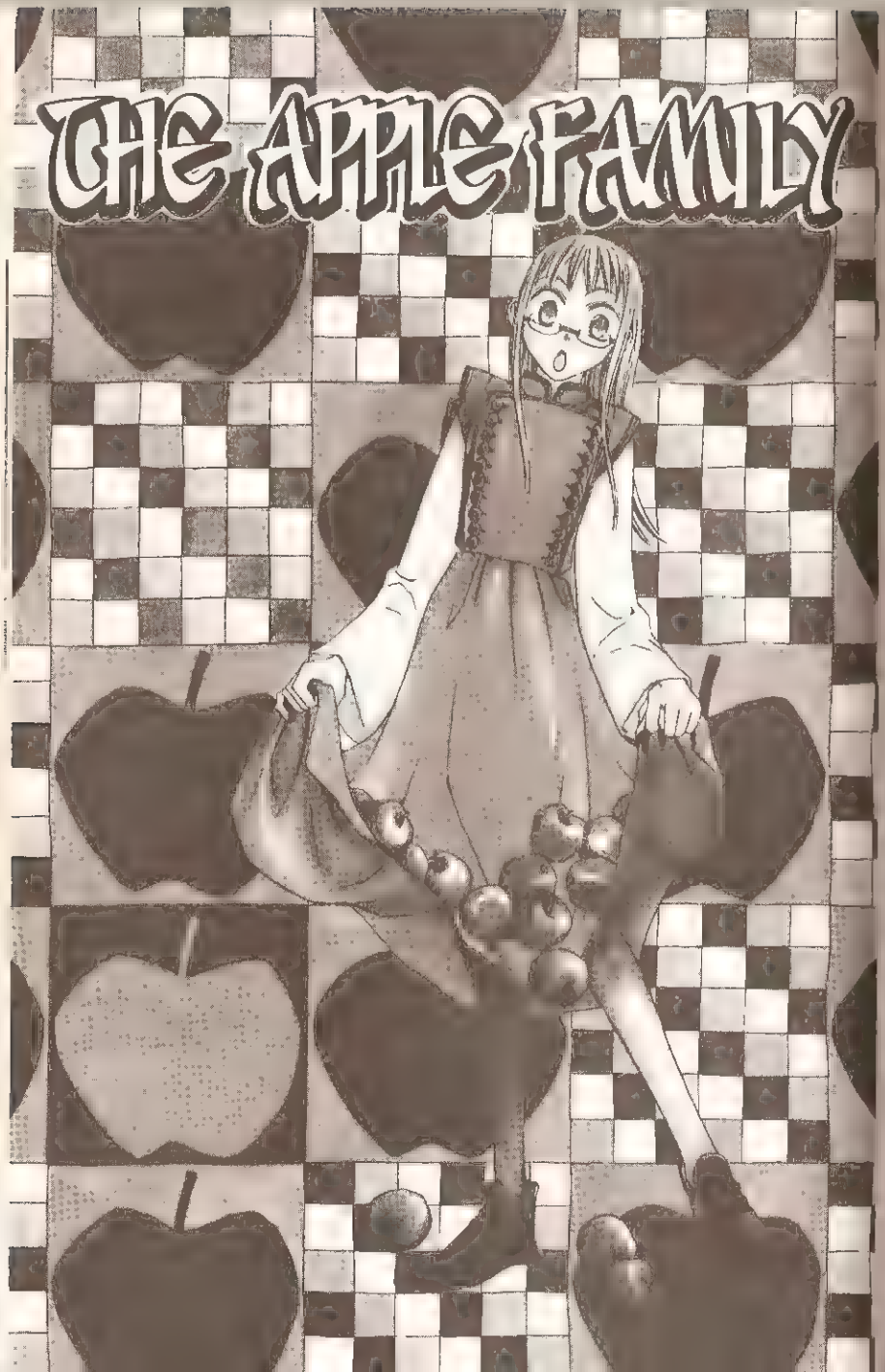
WAIT A SECOND...
FEELS LIKE I'M IN A DREAM...
DAD, YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!
RUB RUB
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU IMAGINED! MOM'S GETTING PICKED ON BY A REAL HOOD!
CLAVIS WILL GET THAT WRINKLE IN HER FOREHEAD...
...BUT SHE'LL PROBABLY PRETEND SHE DIDN'T HEAR YOU, SO WITHOUT HESITATION, YOU GO...
WOMAN!!
I'M TALKIN' TO YOU!!
WHAT?!
C'MON, GIMME A KISS!
LET GO OF ME...!
RUSTLE
!
GRAB
THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS ANSWER ME!
IF I WERE CELLO'S MOTHER'S FATHER, I WOULD NEVER ENTER THEIR HOUSE.
DUM DICE DUM
THE PAINTED TATTOO IS COMPLETE!
WHEN WERE YOU HOLDING ALL THESE MARKERS...?
TA-DAAAA
Carpenter
OH!
THERE'S CLAVIS!
SHE'S 40, BUT CALL HER "YOUNG LADY" AT FIRST.
AND THEN ASK HER OUT FOR A DRINK.
LET'S YOU AND ME GET SOME TEA.
BAM!
YO, YO, YO, YOUNG LADY! WHERE YOU HEADIN'?
HERE'S THE PLAN, DOCTOR:
FIRST, CALL OUT TO CLAVIS.
WAAA!
KILL YOU

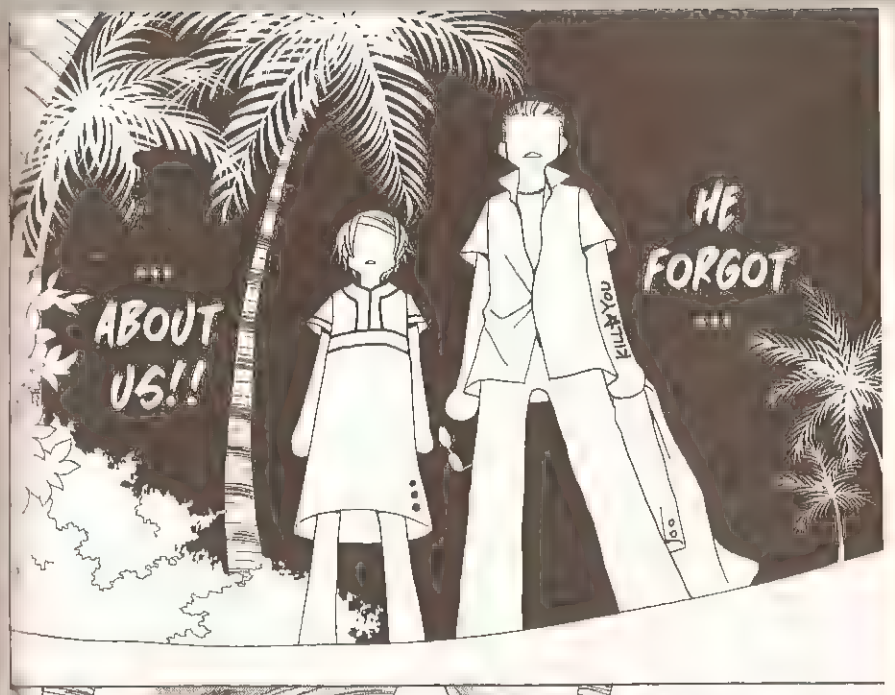
THEO!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE LADY?
YEAH?
AND WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!
LET GO OF HER HAND.
I THINK WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU IS A BETTER QUESTION.
SHUT YOUR MOUTH AN' CRAWL OUTTA HERE!!
CRACK

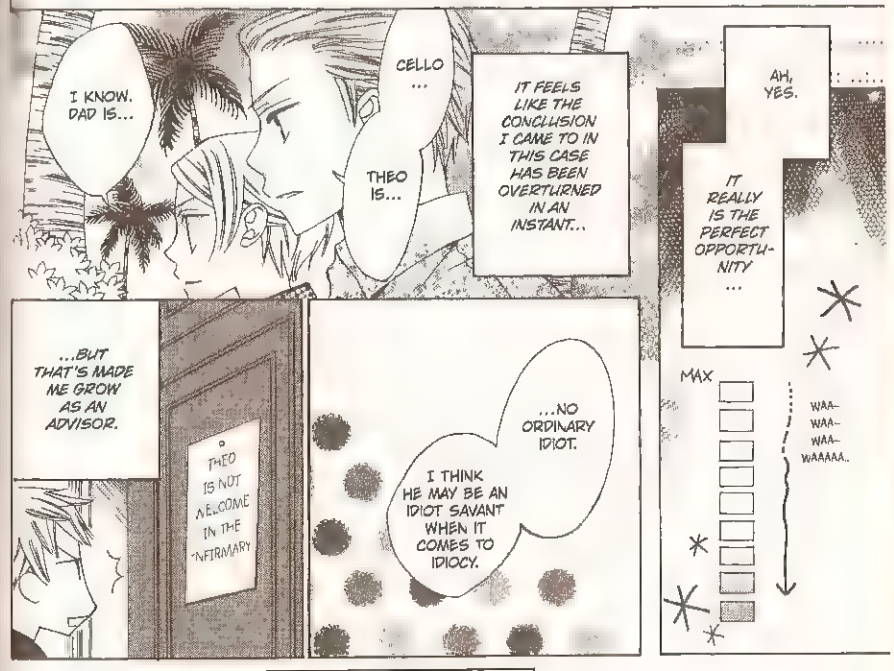

Jump!
WHACK


...TO BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND SOMEONE.
REALLY?
TONIGHT ...
...I'LL MAKE ONE OF YOUR FAVORITES FOR DINNER.
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA COOK?
EH?
FIRST, LET'S GO TO THE MARKET

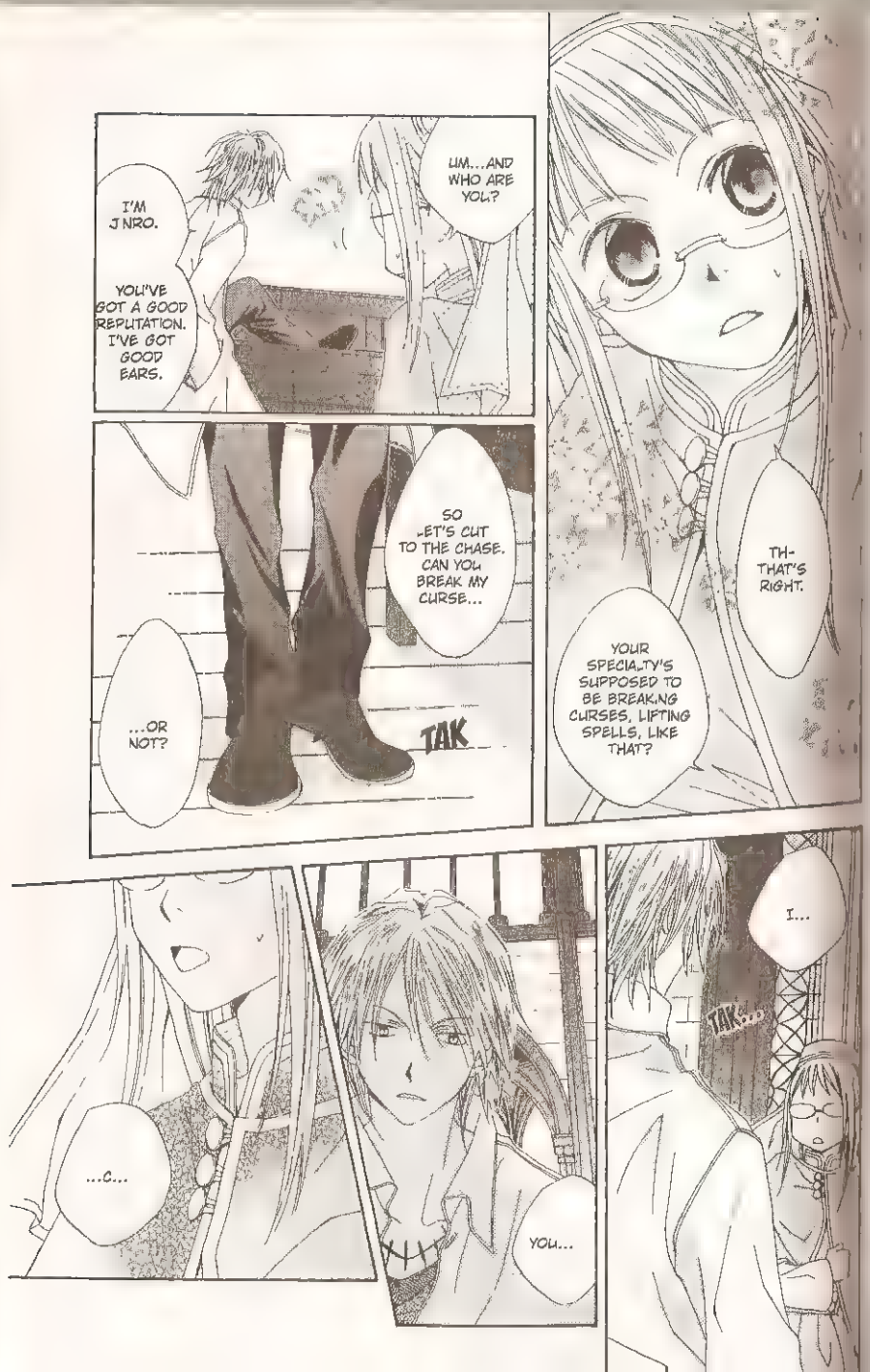

MAX!!
D-DAD!!
SQUEEZE
DAD'S COOLASSS MOTTER.
YOU DON'T EVER TALK TO MY WIFE LIKE THAT!
KKRK
THE SAME GOES FOR TALKING TO MY DAUGHTER...AND HER GRANDMOTHER!
YOU SAY ONE WORD O THEM AND NEXT TIME, YOUR EG GETS BROKEN!
KILL☆YOU
UNDERSTAND?!
KILL☆YOU
PROVIDING A SHOULDER TO CRY ON IS A PAIN...
...BUT IT'S ALSO THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY ...
...IS COO...
THEO...



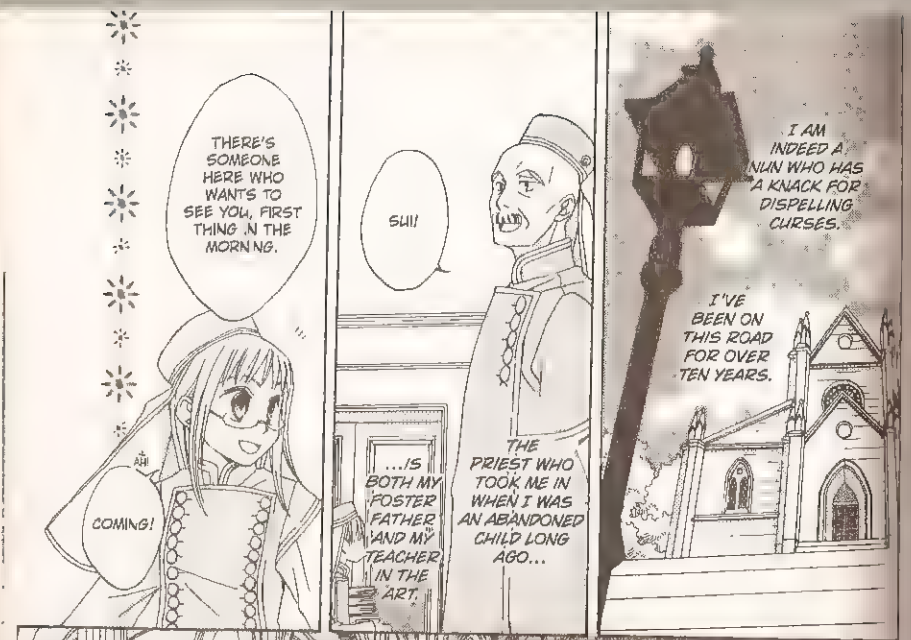



I KNOW. DAD IS...
CELLO ...
THEO IS...
IT FEELS LIKE THE CONCLUSION I CAME TO IN THIS CASE HAS BEEN OVERTURNED IN AN INSTANT...
AH, YES.
IT REALLY IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY ...
...BUT THAT'S MADE ME GROW AS AN ADVISOR.
THEO IS NOT WELCOME IN THE INFIRMARY
...NO ORDINARY IDIOT.
I THINK HE MAY BE AN IDIOT SAVANT WHEN IT COMES TO IDIOCY.
MAX
WAA- WAA- WAA- WAAAAA..

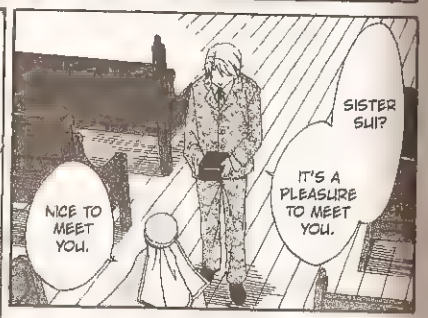
EPISODE 11: THE END

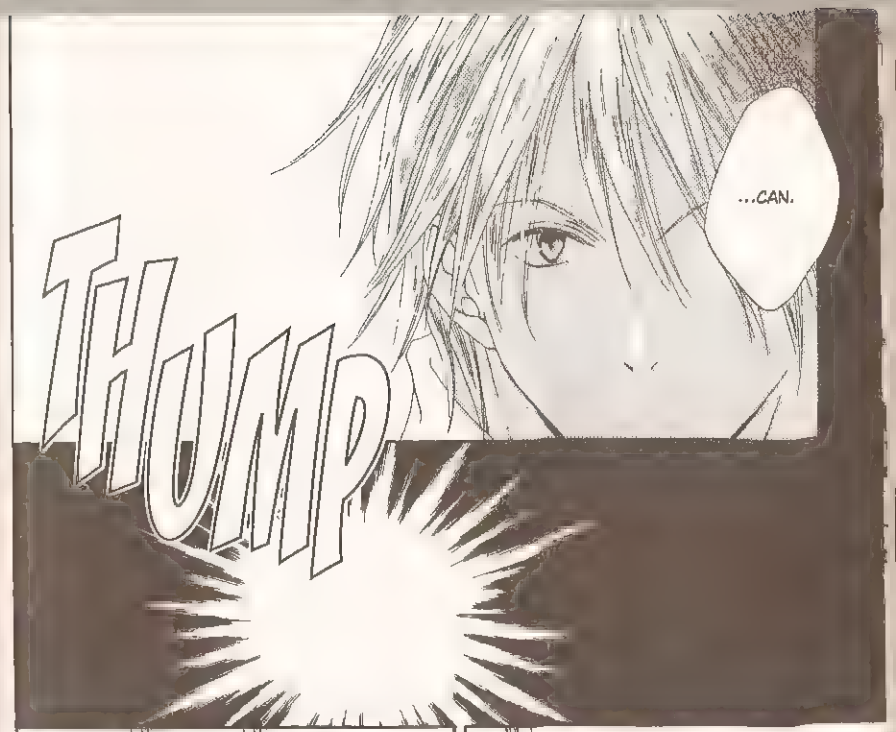

UM...AND WHO ARE YOU?
I'M JINRO.
YOU'VE GOT A GOOD REPUTATION. I'VE GOT GOOD EARS.
TH-THAT'S RIGHT.
YOUR SPECIALTY'S SUPPOSED TO BE BREAKING CURSES, LIFTING SPELLS, LIKE THAT?
SO LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE. CAN YOU BREAK MY CURSE...
...OR NOT?
TAK
I...
TAK...
...C...
YOU...

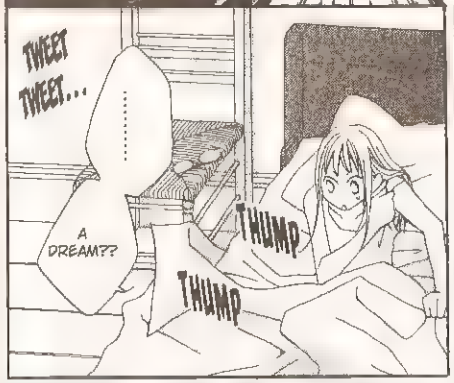
I FOUND YOU, AT LAST.
TWITCH
?!
STOMP!!!
YOU ARE...
...SISTER SUI, AREN'T YOU?

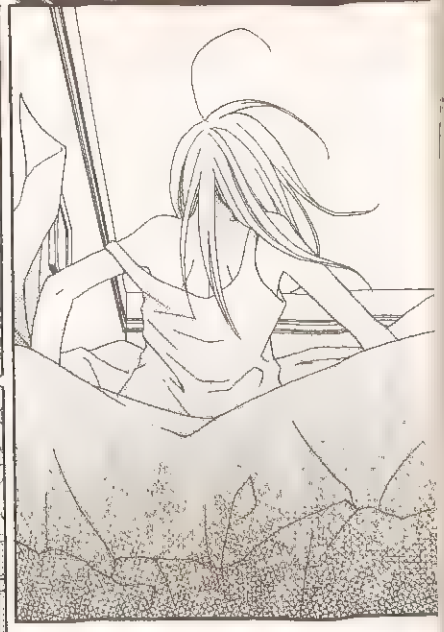

THERE'S SOMEONE HERE WHO WANTS TO SEE YOU, FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.
COMING!
AH!
SUI!
...IS BOTH MY FOSTER FATHER AND MY TEACHER IN THE ART.
THE PRIEST WHO TOOK ME IN WHEN I WAS AN ABANDONED CHILD LONG AGO...
I AM INDEED A NUN WHO HAS A KNACK FOR DISPELLING CURSES.
I'VE BEEN ON THIS ROAD FOR OVER TEN YEARS.

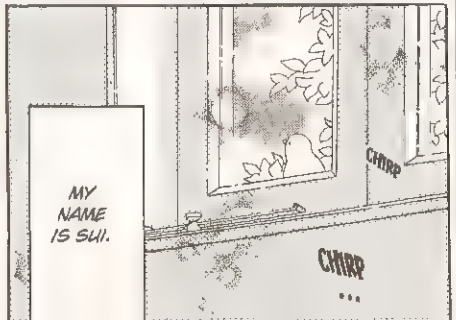
ACTUALLY, I'M HERE BECAUSE I CAME INTO POSSESSION OF SOMETHING UNUSUAL...
...AND IT'S A LITTLE TOO MUCH FOR ME TO HANDLE.


SISTER SUI?
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
NICE TO MEET YOU.


...CAN.
THUMP

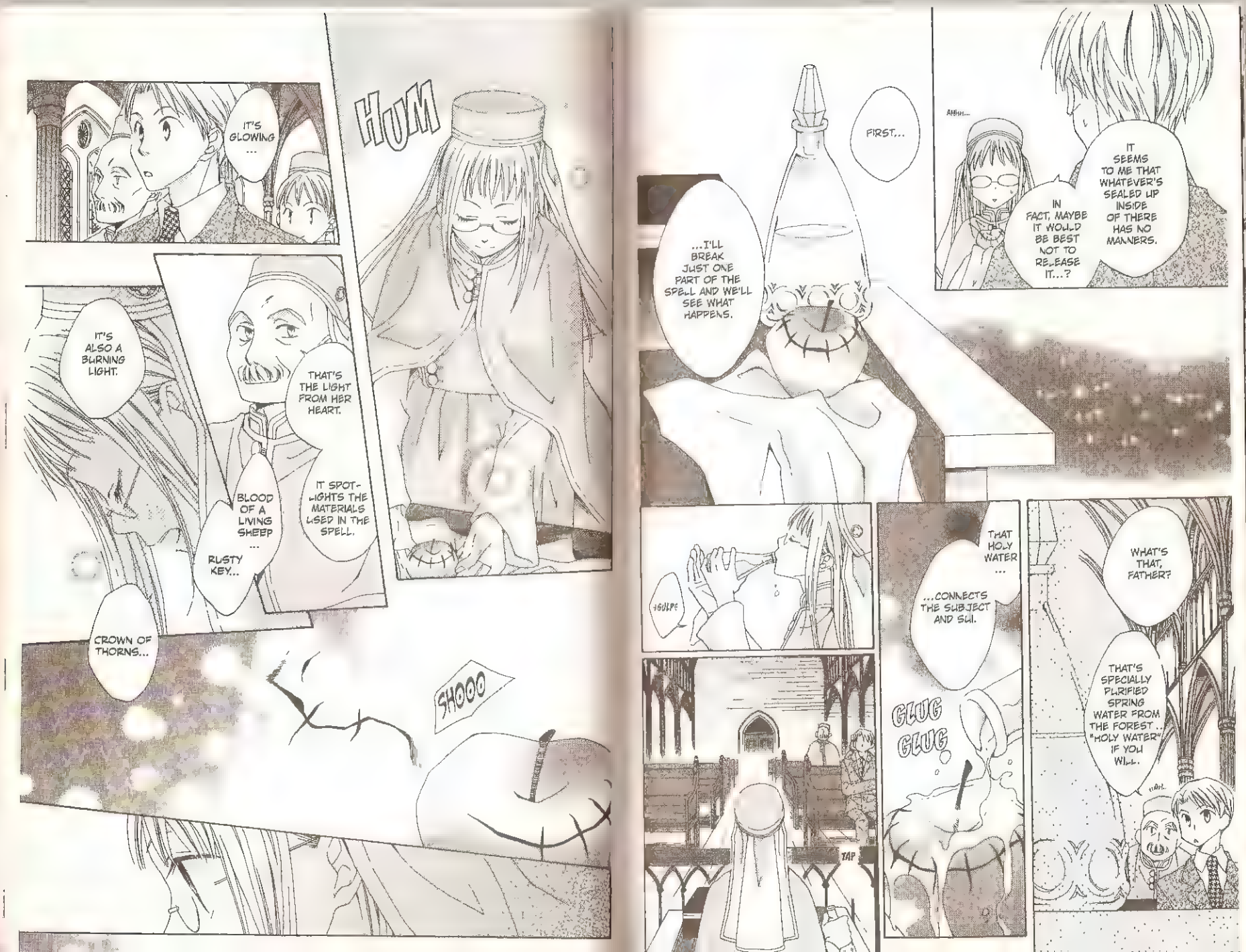

TWEET TWEET...
.....
A DREAM??
THUMP
THUMP

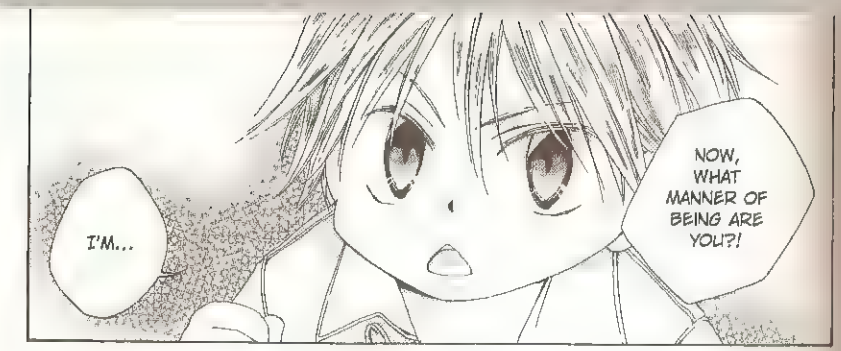



MY NAME IS SUI.
CHIRP
CHIRP
...

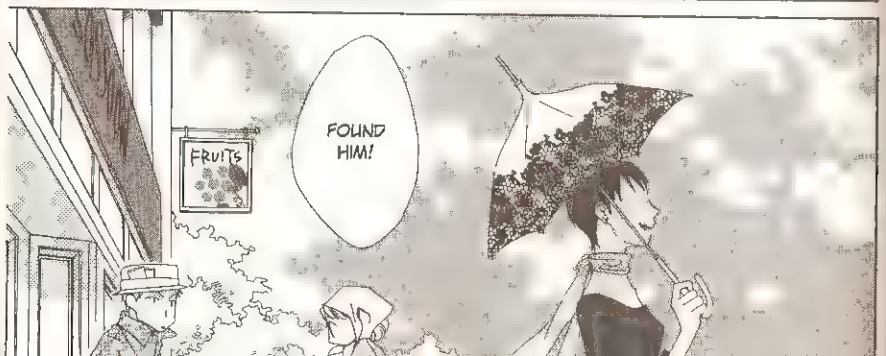
"JINRO."
WHO IS HE?
IN THE DREAM, I DIDN'T SENSE THAT HE WAS EVIL, BUT...
THIS DESIGN...
...IN MY DREAM, HE HAD THE SAME MARKINGS ON HIS CHEST.
...IS USED WHEN CASTING A SPELL ON SOMEONE.
OH!
OR SOMEONE...?
...I WOULD GUESS THAT SOMETHING'S BEEN SEALED UP INSIDE THIS APPLE.
JUST GOING BY YOUR STORY...

...SISTER SUI.
...TELLING ME TO COME TO THIS CHURCH...
...AND SEE YOU...
GACK
IT MOVES BY ITSELF...
...AND THIS MORNING, A MAN'S VOICE CAME OUT OF IT...
ALL FROM THIS ONE GOLDEN APPLE.
MM?
I'VE HAD IT EXAMINED, OF COURSE, AND IT REALLY IS MADE OUT OF PURE GOLD...
...I HAVE NO EARTHLY IDEA WHERE IT ORIGINALLY CAME FROM.
COME TO THINK OF IT...


IT'S GLOWING ...
HUM
IT'S ALSO A BURNING LIGHT.
THAT'S THE LIGHT FROM HER HEART.
BLOOD OF A LIVING SHEEP ...
RUSTY KEY...
IT SPOT-LIGHTS THE MATERIALS USED IN THE SPELL.
CROWN OF THORNS...
SHOOO
FIRST...
...I'LL BREAK JUST ONE PART OF THE SPELL AND WE'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
AHHH...
IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WHATEVER'S SEALED UP INSIDE OF THERE HAS NO MANNERS.
IN FACT, MAYBE IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO RE..EASE IT...?
GULP
THAT HOLY WATER ...
...CONNECTS THE SUBJECT AND SUI.
GLUG GLUG
TAP
WHAT'S THAT, FATHER?
THAT'S SPECIALLY PURIFIED SPRING WATER FROM THE FOREST.. "HOLY WATER" IF YOU WILL.
Ah.


I'M...
NOW, WHAT MANNER OF BEING ARE YOU?!

...THE SPIRIT OF AN APPLE TREE.
TAK


FRUITS
FOUND HIM!

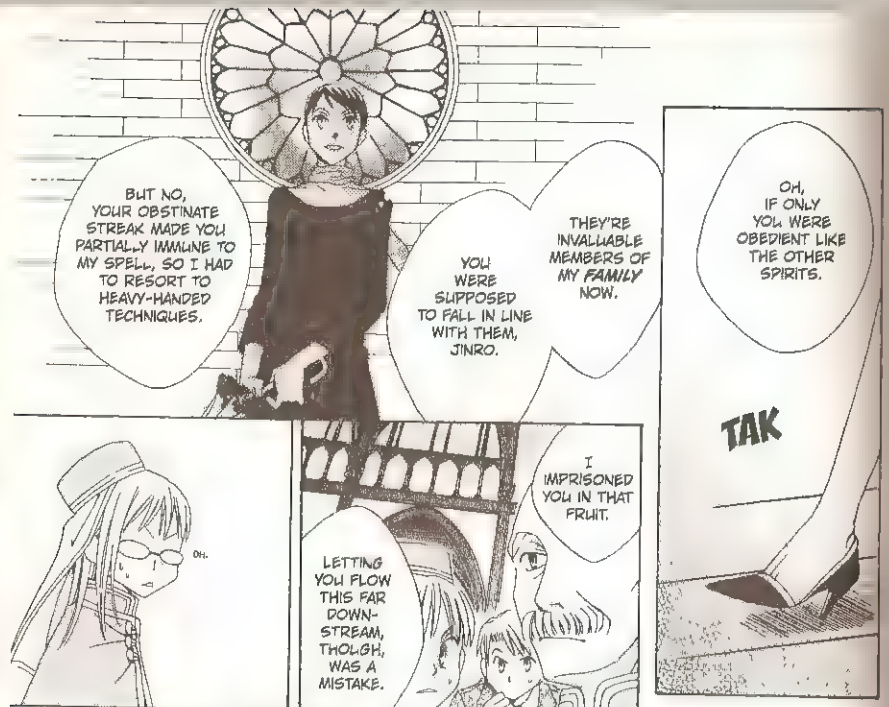
FSSSS...
THERE!

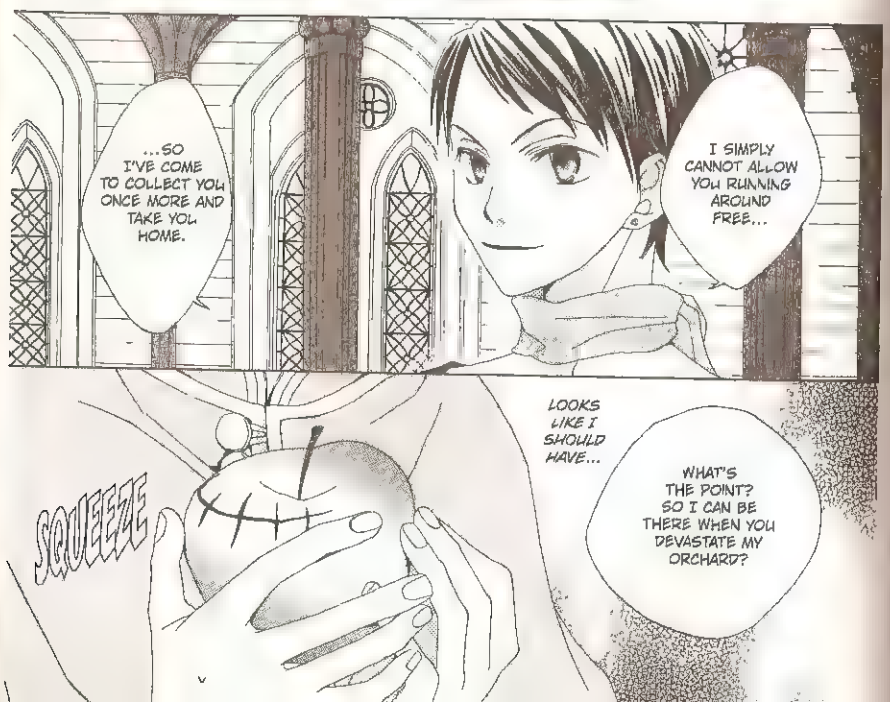
YIKES!
LOOK WHAT YOU DID! TURNED ME INTO A POWERLESS BRAT!
YOU'VE SEEN WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE!! NOW REMOVE THE REST OF THE CURSE!!
AS SOON AS I DETERMINE THAT YOU'RE NOT EVIL, I'LL BE HAPPY TO!

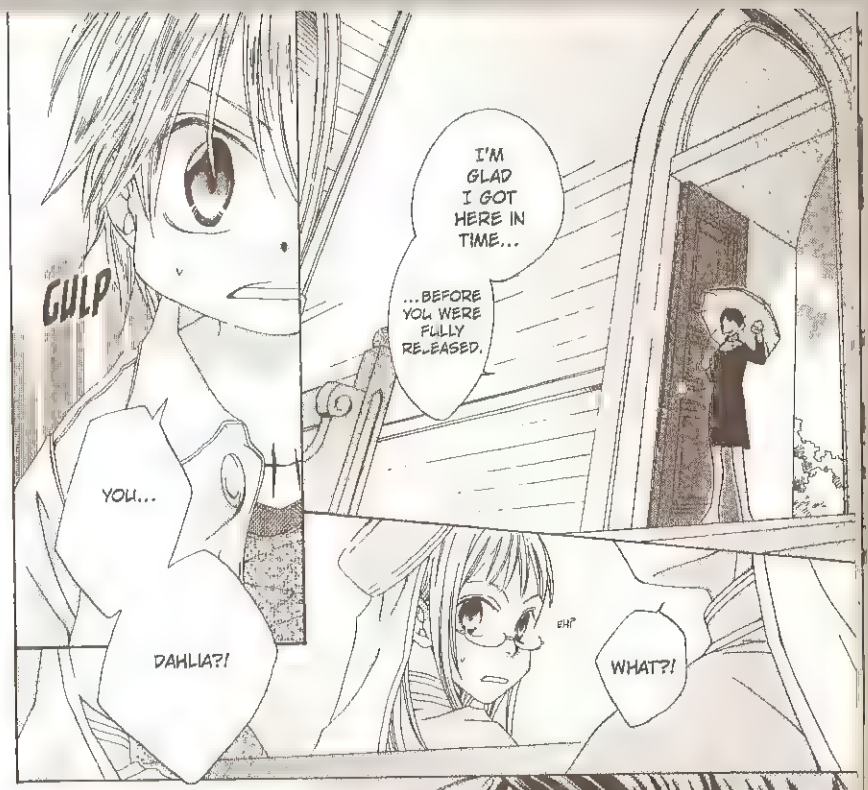
WHAT'S THIS, SISTER SUI?! I WAS COUNTING ON YOU!!
DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY DREAMS I HADDA INVADE BEFORE I FINALLY FOUND YOU?!
OHHH...

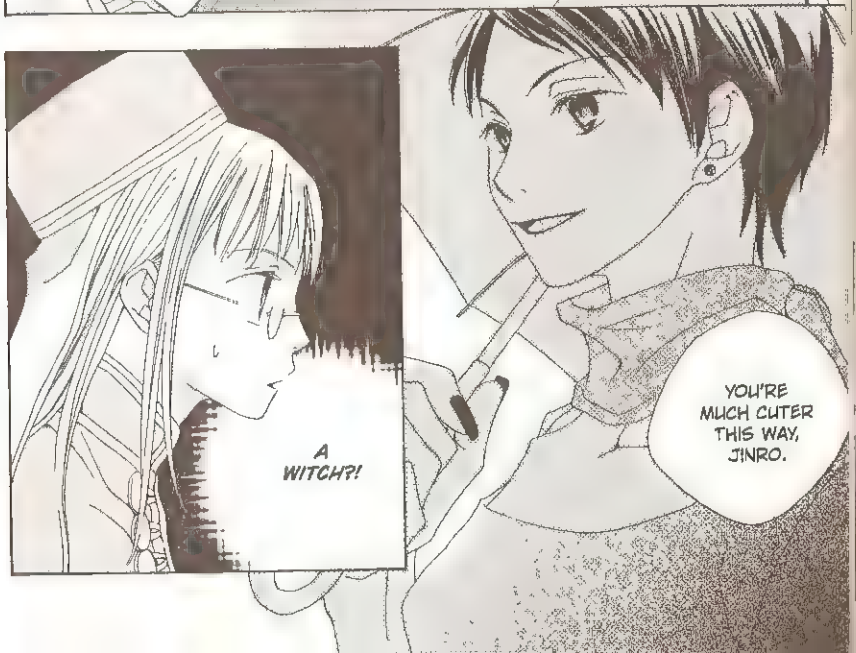
THERE'S THE RESULT.
...THEN COATED ALL THE APPLES IN THE ORCHARD WITH GOLD SHE SUCKED OUT OF THE GROUND.
SHE CAST SPELLS UPON THE SEVEN OF US...
...WHICH WAS BY BUYING UP THE ENTIRE ORCHARD.
THAT'S WHY...
TAK
CREAK
THE "GOLDEN SPELL" CHANGED THE PERSONALITIES OF ALL THE SPIRITS BUT ME.

ONE OF OUR JOBS IS TO PROTECT THE YOUNG TREES FROM NATURAL DISASTERS.
IN THE ORCHARD ARE SEVEN OLD STUMPS, EACH ONE HOUSING A SPIRIT.
AND I'M ONE OF THOSE.
TO THE NORTH OF HERE, IN A TOWN CALLED TRAJAN...
...THERE'S A HUGE APPLE ORCHARD WITH A LONG HISTORY.
BUT ONE DAY, DAHLIA AND HER MINIONS CAME TO THE ORCHARD.
DAHLIA?
A WICKED WITCH.
SHE'D DIVINED...
...A VEIN OF PREVIOUSLY UNDISCOVERED GOLD ORE UNDER THE TOWN.
THE WITCH THOUGHT SHE'D TAKE THE MOST EFFICIENT ROUTE TO GET HER HANDS ON THE GOLD...
Gold


BUT NO, YOUR OBSTINATE STREAK MADE YOU PARTIALLY IMMUNE TO MY SPELL, SO I HAD TO RESORT TO HEAVY-HANDED TECHNIQUES.
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO FALL IN LINE WITH THEM, JINRO.
THEY'RE INVALUABLE MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY NOW.
OH, IF ONLY YOU WERE OBEDIENT LIKE THE OTHER SPIRITS.
TAK
OH.
I IMPRISONED YOU IN THAT FRUIT.
LETTING YOU FLOW THIS FAR DOWN-STREAM, THOUGH, WAS A MISTAKE.

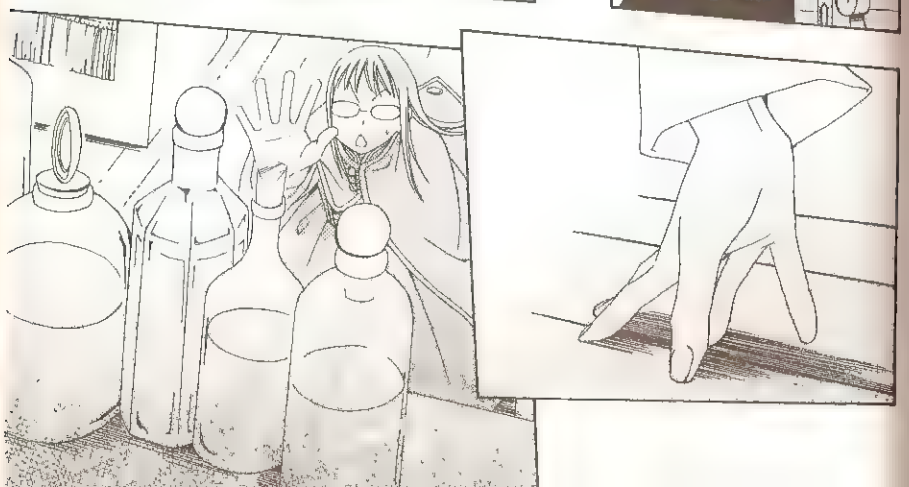

...SO I'VE COME TO COLLECT YOU ONCE MORE AND TAKE YOU HOME.
I SIMPLY CANNOT ALLOW YOU RUNNING AROUND FREE...
SQUEEZE
LOOKS LIKE I SHOULD HAVE...
WHAT'S THE POINT? SO I CAN BE THERE WHEN YOU DEVASTATE MY ORCHARD?

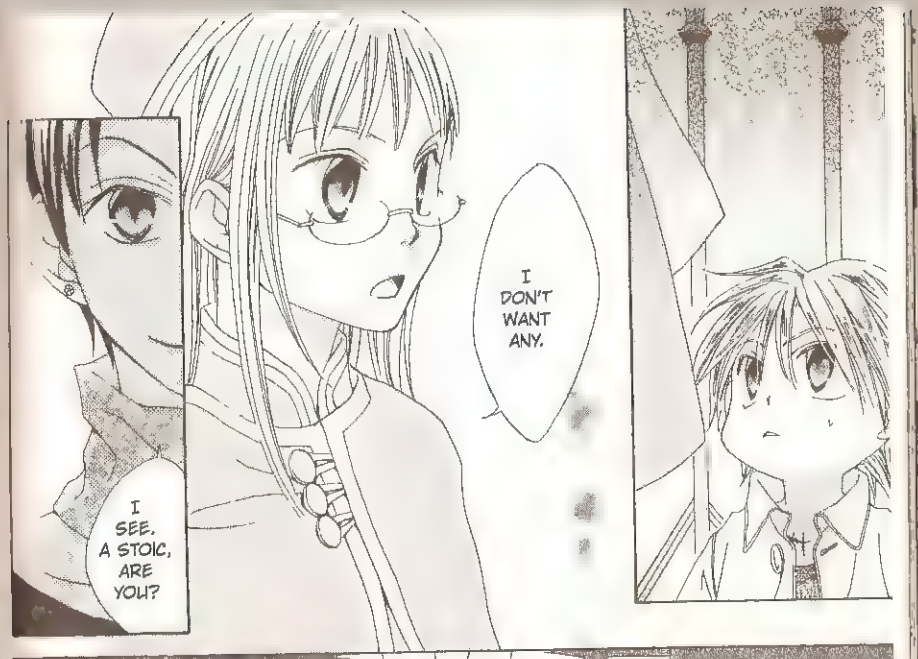

GULP
I'M GLAD I GOT HERE IN TIME...
...BEFORE YOU WERE FULLY RELEASED.
YOU...
DAHLIA?!
EH?
WHAT?!

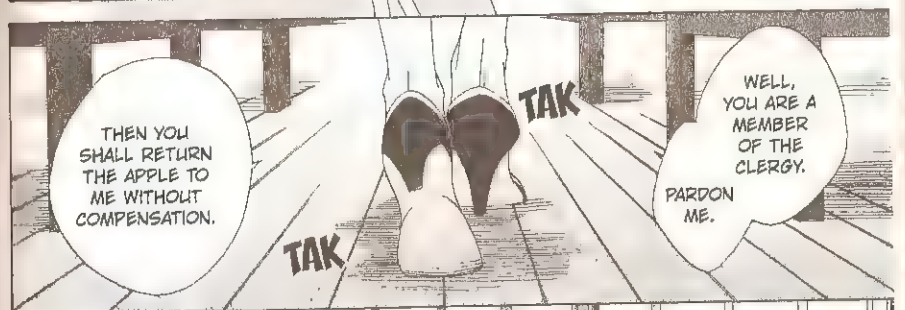

A WITCH?!
YOU'RE MUCH CUTER THIS WAY, JINRO.

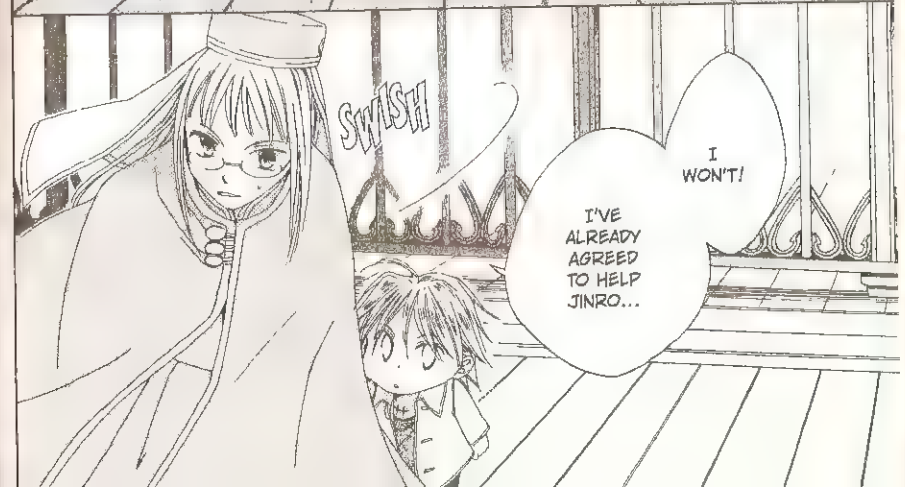
TOSS
TOSS
I PICKED THEM RIGHT BEFORE COMING TODAY. NOTHING IS TRAPPED INSIDE THESE...
...SO YOU CAN HAVE BOTH. NOW BEGONE.
...SURE.
YOU SEE?
HOLD OUT YOUR HAND FOR A TREAT AS WELL, SISTER.
WOULD YOU LIKE ONE? OR WILL TWO DO?
GLANCE
FIRST, HOLY WATER...
IT'S KEPT AT THE ALTAR, BUT...
WAIT!
I'M THE ONE WHO FOUND THE GOLDEN APPLE!
YOU SAY YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE IT BACK? THAT'S THIEVERY!
TAK TAK
...REMOVE? THE WHOLE SPELL WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE!?
HOW WAS I TO KNOW?! WHEN YOU FIRST CAME OUT, YOU CERTAINLY DIDN'T BEHAVE AS A GENTLEMAN!
WEARING AT LEAST A NECKTIE WOULD'VE INSPIRED MORE CONFIDENCE!
WHISPER
...ARE YOU BLIND.
WHISPER
SEE? I TOLD YOU!
EVEN WITH YOUR GLASSES...
I'LL TRY!
EVEN NOW, IT'S NOT TOO LATE!
WILL YOU FINISH REMOVING THE SPELL?

GOT TO GET TO THE HOLY WATER...
SWISH
SLIP
KYAAA!
THUD
SHE'S A KLUTZ!!
...AND BETRAYING MY CLIENTS IS SOMETHING I NEVER DO!
NOW!
HOW AMUSING.




I DON'T WANT ANY.
I SEE. A STOIC, ARE YOU?

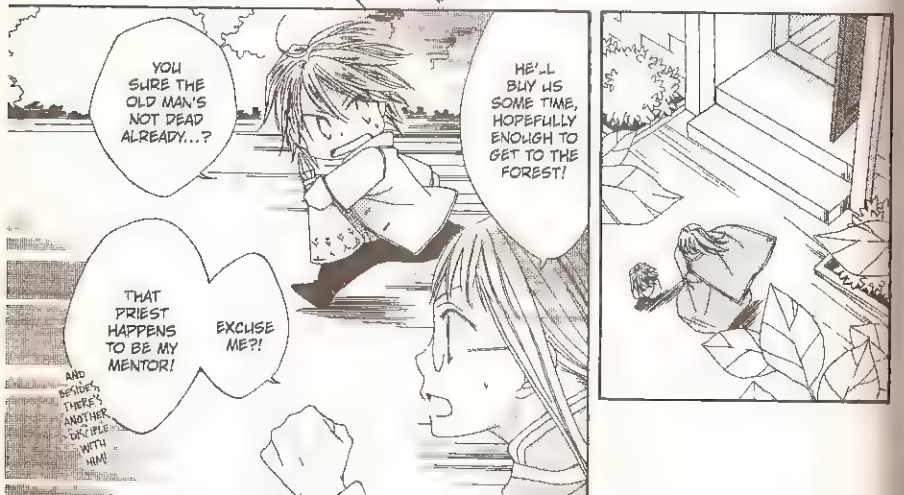

TAK
TAK
THEN YOU SHALL RETURN THE APPLE TO ME WITHOUT COMPENSATION.
WELL, YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY.
PARDON ME.

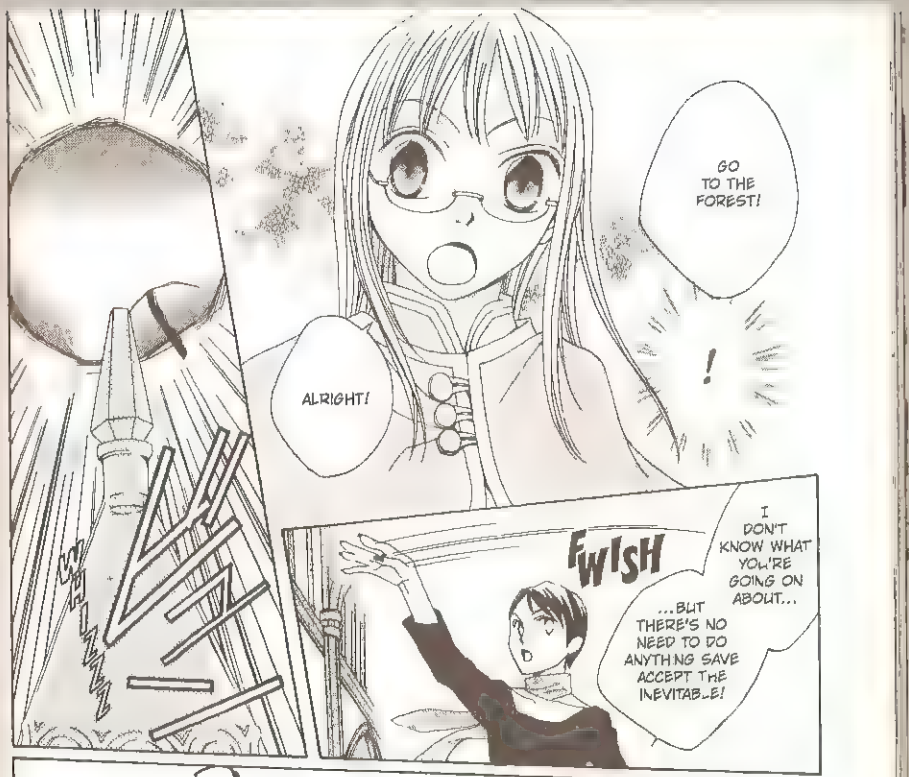

SWISH
I WON'T!
I'VE ALREADY AGREED TO HELP JINRO...

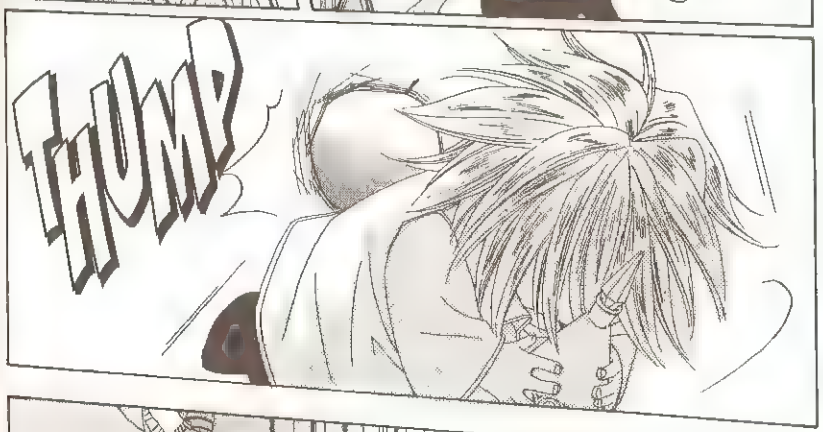
CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING WITHOUT WATER?!
I WISH I COULD, BUT I CAN'T!
IT'S ESSENTIAL!!
TAK
MY ENTIRE STOCK...
...DESTROYED!
TAK
SHATTER
RUSTLE
SUI!
ALL YOU NEED IS THAT EMPTY BOTTLE!

FWISH
THAP
KRISH
KRISH
KRISH
KRISH
KRISH
WHA--?!

AS IF YOU LOVE THE GROUND...
...YOU REMAIN FIXED TO IT, ROOTED LIKE A TREE
YOUR LEGS ARE LIKE LEAD
SHUDDER
WAI--
THE BACK EXIT IS THIS WAY!
SCOOP!
JUST A LITTLE HINDRANCE SPELL.
LIKE IT?
TCH!


YOU SURE THE OLD MAN'S NOT DEAD ALREADY...?
HE'LL BUY US SOME TIME, HOPEFULLY ENOUGH TO GET TO THE FOREST!
THAT PRIEST HAPPENS TO BE MY MENTOR!
EXCUSE ME?!
AND BESIDES, THERE'S ANOTHER DISCIPLE WITH HIM!


GO TO THE FOREST!
!
ALRIGHT!
FWISH
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING ON ABOUT...
...BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO DO ANYTHING SAVE ACCEPT THE INEVITABLE!


THUMP

10

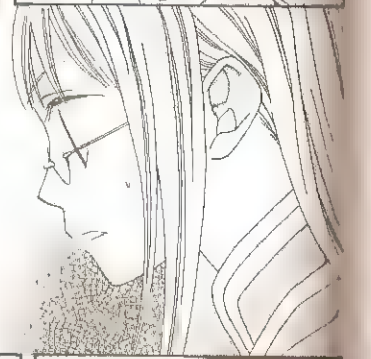
DREAMS OF FLYING

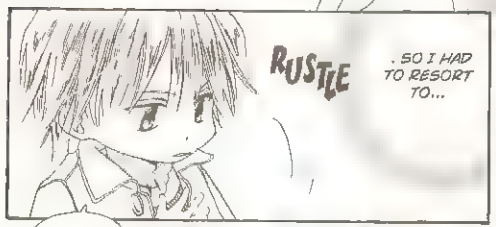
THE OTHER NIGHT, I HAD A FLYING DREAM. TO THE BEST OF MY MEMORY, IT'S THE FIRST ONE I'VE EVER HAD.
I HAVE A FRIEND WHO SAYS SHE'S HAD LOTS OF THEM FROM CHILDHOOD ON, BUT FOR ME--WHOSE DREAMS OFTEN CONSIST OF ME BEING CHASED, OR RUNNING, FALLING, SLIDING OR FIGHTING SOMEONE--
THIS FLYING DREAM WAS INTERESTING. AS I FLEW THROUGH THE AIR, I HAD A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF WHAT LOOKED TO BE DRY LAND BELOW, SO I MADE IT RAIN. WHAT MAKES IT ALL THE MORE INTERESTING IS THAT AFTER I WOKE UP, IT STARTED TO RAIN. MY DREAM WAS PROBABLY INFLUENCED BY THE WEATHER REPORT OF THE PREVIOUS NIGHT!

DON'T TE... ME THAT'S THE FASTEST YOU CAN RUN?
EH? SORRY, I COULDN'T CATCH THAT!
TROT TROT TROT
WATCH WHERE YOU WALK.
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A KID!
YOU'RE THE CLUMSY ONE! YOU WATCH WHERE YOU WALK!
SISTER...

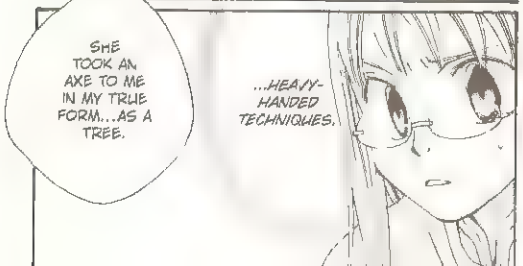
OUR HOLY WATER IS PURIFIED SPRING WATER FROM THE FOREST.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO DO A PROPER PURIFYING CEREMONY...
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO ONCE WE GET TO THE FOREST?
...BUT BY FILLING UP THIS VIAL, WHICH USUALLY HAS HOLY WATER IN IT...
...THERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH RESIDUE TO PURIFY THE WATER FOR OUR PURPOSE...
OH!
IT'S IN YOUR HANDS, SISTER!
...ESPECIALLY SINCE I JUST GOT DONE...
...USING WHAT WAS IN THERE ON YOU!

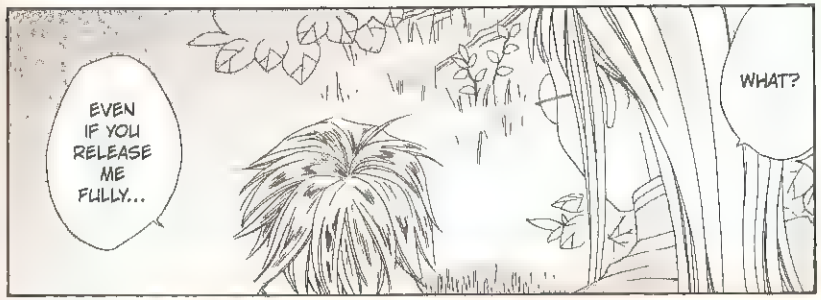
IF YOU SAY SO...
READY?
HEY! NOT THAT HIGH!
FWOOSH

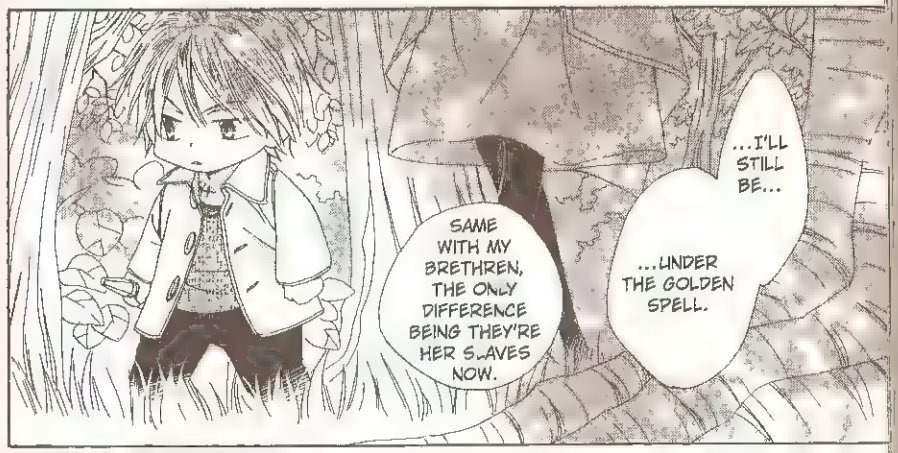

WHERE D.D YOU GET...
...THAT SCAR?


RUSTLE
. SO I HAD TO RESORT TO...

YOUR OBSTINATE STREAK MADE YOU PARTIALLY IMMUNE TO MY SPELL...

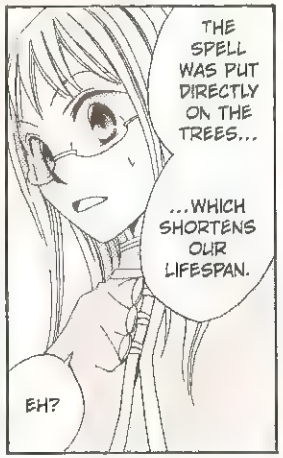

SHE TOOK AN AXE TO ME IN MY TRUE FORM...AS A TREE.
...HEAVY-HANDED TECHNIQUES.


EVEN IF YOU RELEASE ME FULLY...
WHAT?


SAME WITH MY BRETHREN, THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BEING THEY'RE HER SLAVES NOW.
...UNDER THE GOLDEN SPELL.
...I'LL STILL BE...

SISTER, LIFT UP MY SHIRT.
HAH?
JUST DO IT!

DAHLIA DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING, AS LONG AS SHE GETS THAT GOLD.


THE SPELL WAS PUT DIRECTLY ON THE TREES...
...WHICH SHORTENS OUR LIFESPAN.
EH?

11

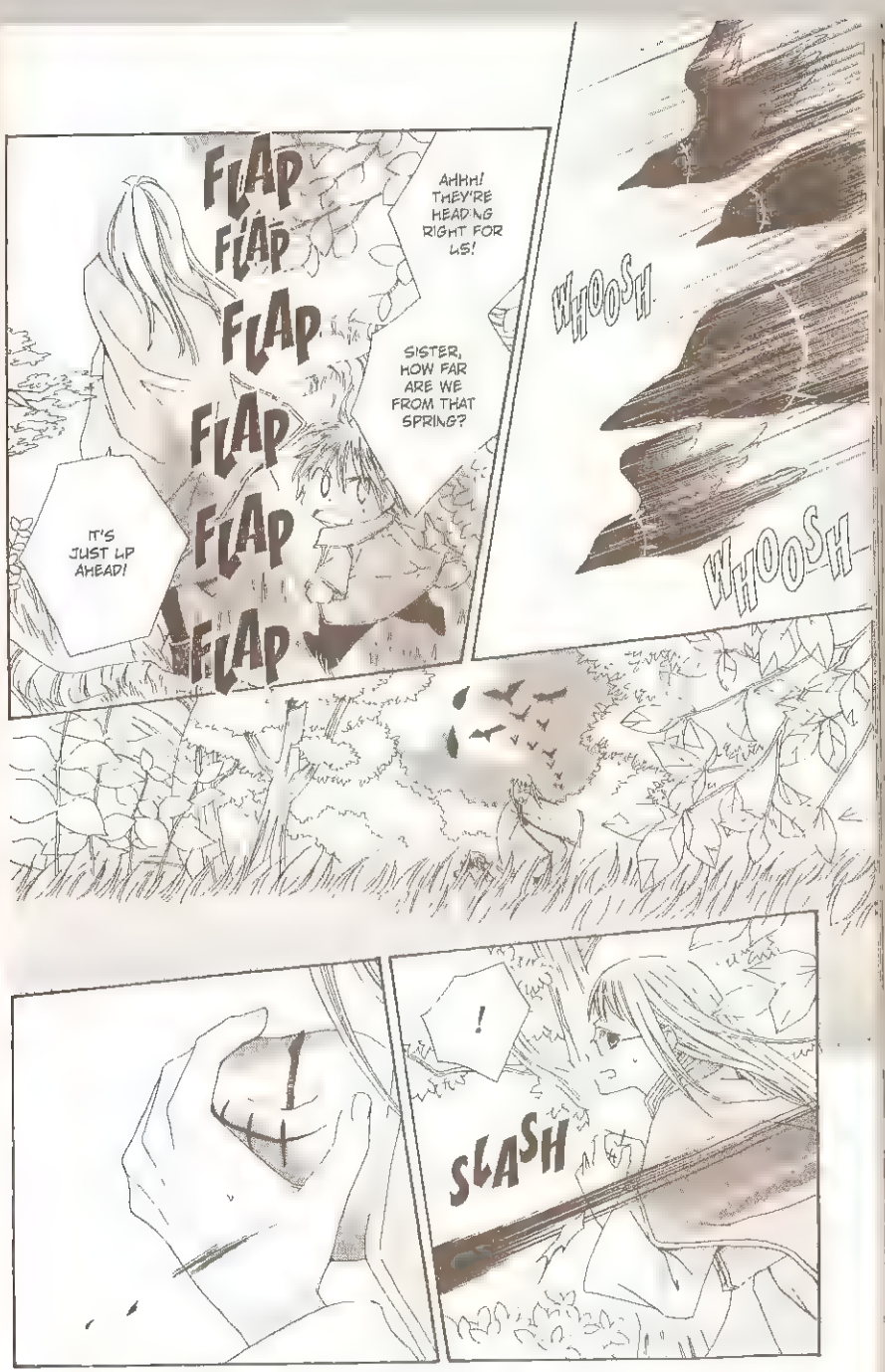
MEIJI VILLAGE

MEIJI VILLAGE IS AN OUTDOOR MUSEUM IN AICHI. AT THE SITE, YOU CAN ENTER A NUMBER OF RECONSTRUCTED MEIJI-ERA STRUCTURES. I LOVE THE PLACE AND HAVE BEEN THERE A NUMBER OF TIMES. IT'D BEEN A WHILE, SO I WENT AGAIN WITH SOME FRIENDS. I TOOK TONS OF PICTURES OF CHURCHES THERE, FROM WHICH I TOOK BITS AND PIECES TO FORM THE CHURCH YOU SEE IN THIS STORY. I WAS DEFINITELY THE SLOWPOKE OF THE BUNCH AND KEPT MY FRIENDS WAITING A LONG TIME AS I PERSISTENTLY TOOK SHOT AFTER SHOT OF THE CHURCHES. THEY'RE GOING TO ABANDON ME ONE OF THESE DAYS.

SEE YOU AT THE END OF THE VOLUME.

WHIZZZ
...HOW HIS GAZE SEEMS TO PIERCE DEEP INTO MY HEART.
THAT'S THE WAY THE WITCH AND HER FAMILY ARE.
BUT SISTER SUI...
AH..
GAS?
YES?
THOSE EYES LOOK JUST THE SAME AS WHEN I SAW HIM IN MY DREAM.
A LITTLE SCARY...
THUNK

SLASH
GIMME...
...THE APPLE!
I'LL HOLD ON TO IT!
AH!
SLASH
SLASH
WHI
ZZZ
THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE AFTER!
THEY'LL KEEP ATTACKING YOU UNTIL YOU DROP IT!
DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT GOING TO DROP IT!
HAH?!
SQUEEZE


FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
AHHH! THEY'RE HEADING RIGHT FOR US!
SISTER, HOW FAR ARE WE FROM THAT SPRING?
IT'S JUST UP AHEAD!
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
!
SLASH

WHIZZ
THUNK
SHOVE!
WAAA!
POSSI-
BLY.
BUT
WHAT ELSE
CAN I DO? SHE
REFUSES TO
SETTLE THE
MATTER
AMICABLY.
IF
THAT'D HIT
HER HEAD
ON, SHE
WOULD'VE
BEEN
KILLED!

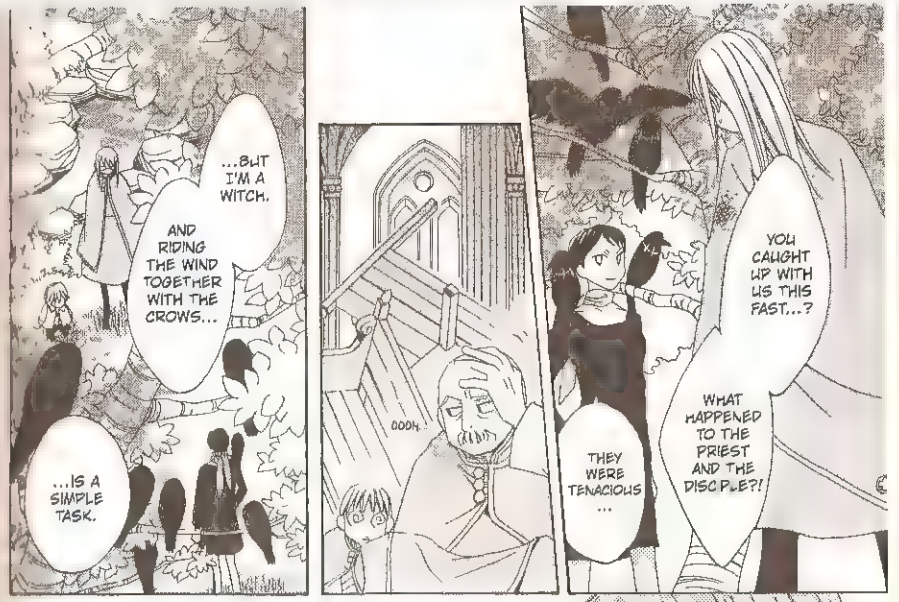
WHOOSH
...THERE!
WOOSH
THE
SPRING!
COME
ON, SISTER,
LET'S SWITCH!
THE EMPTY
BOTTLE
FOR THE
APPLE!
FORGET
IT! YOU
HOLD ON TO
THE VIAL,
JINRO.
YOU
CAN'T HANDLE
THE APPLE!
GIVE IT
HERE!!
HMPH!
NOTHING
DOING,
BRAT!
GYAAA!
GYAAA!

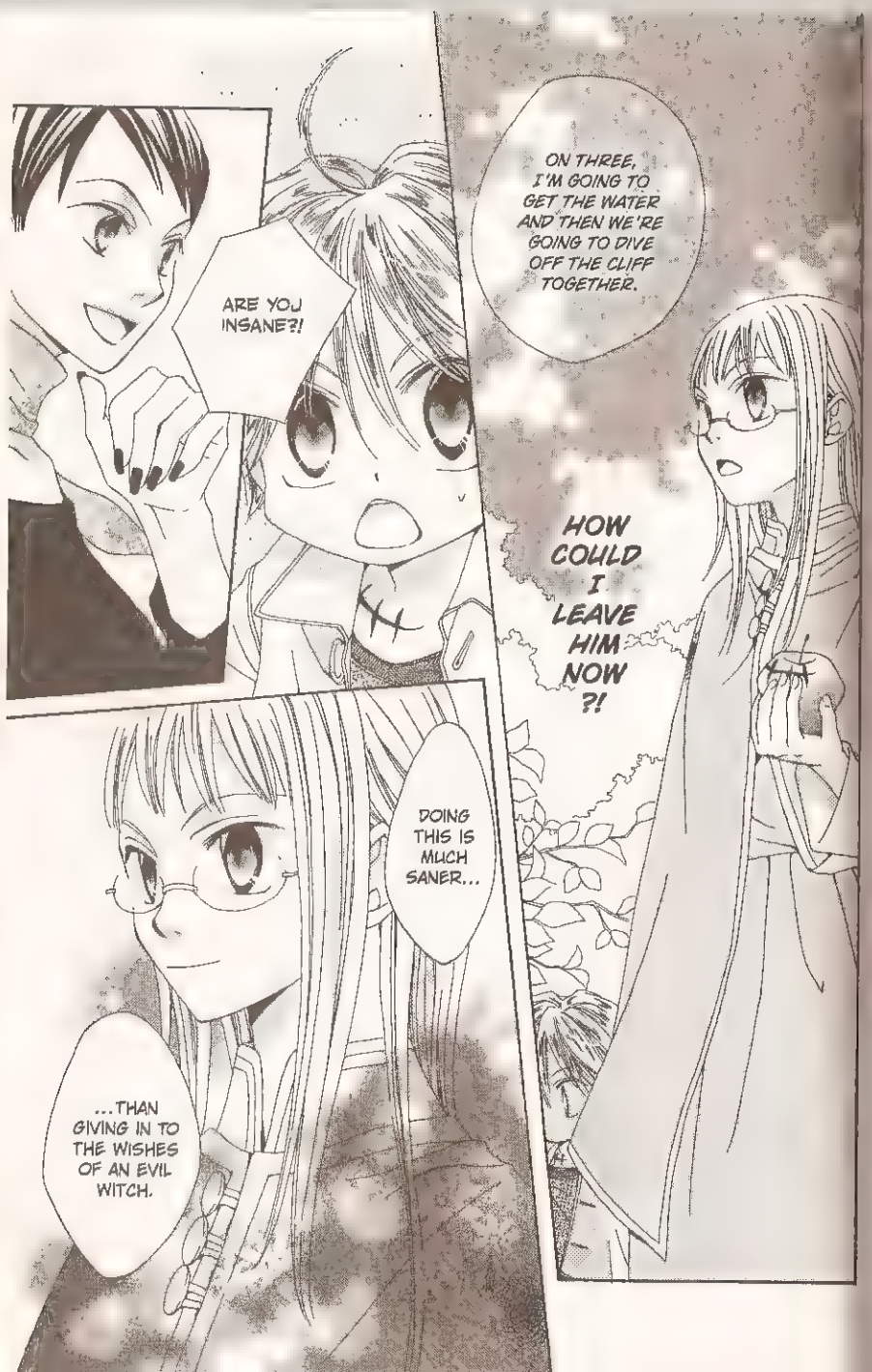
ALL JINRO DID...
...WAS GET YOU WRAPPED UP IN HIS PROBLEMS.
SATISFIED? NOW GIVE ME THE GOLD APPLE.
I LEFT YOUR FRIENDS BACK AT THE CHURCH VIRTUALLY UNHURT.
JUST BECAUSE HE ASKED FOR YOUR HELP...
...DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD SUFFER.

...BUT...

I SUPPOSE SHE'S GOT A SOUND ARGUMENT...

I ASSURE YOU, THERE'S NO UPSIDE TO THROWING YOUR LOT IN WITH HIM.

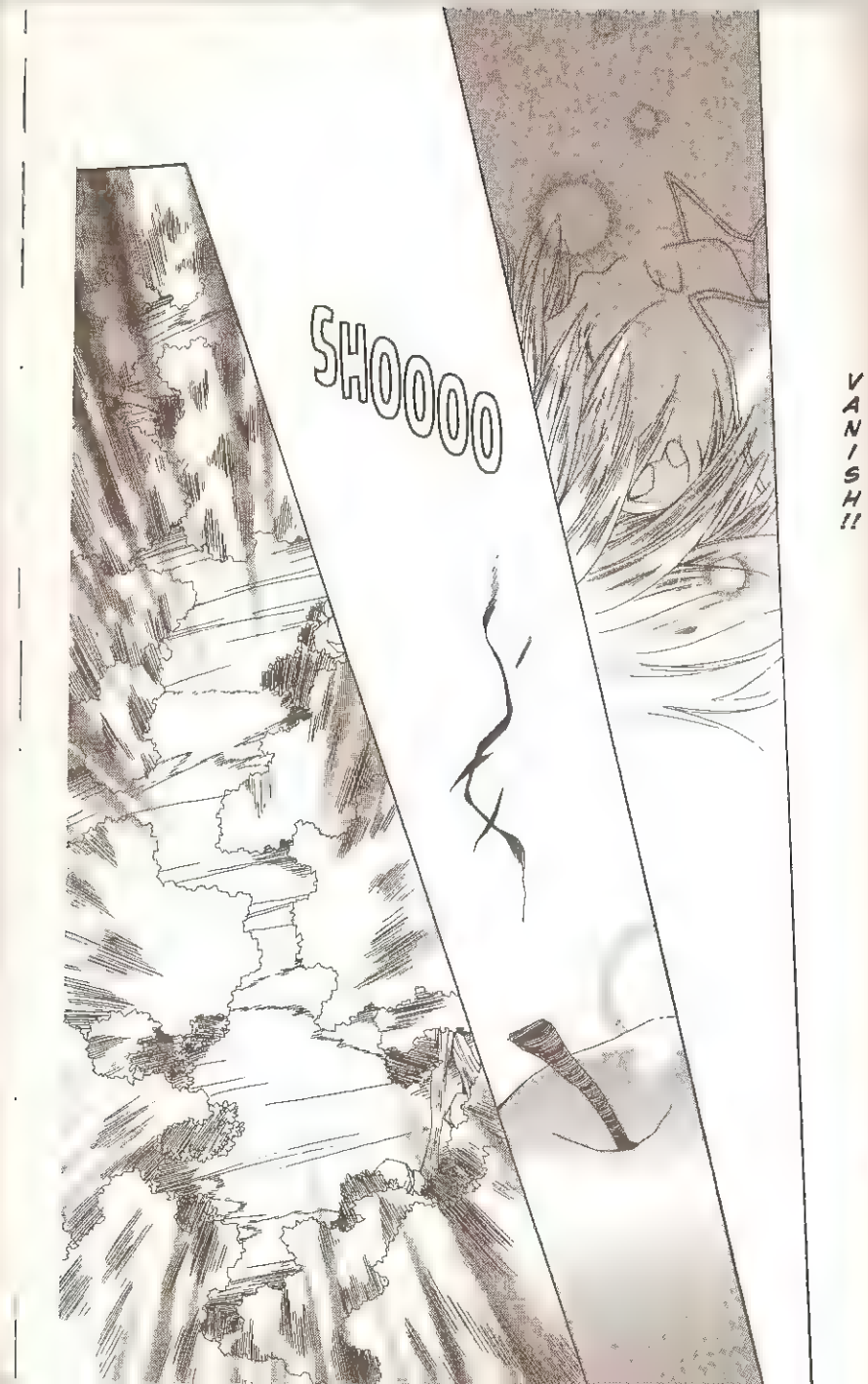

...BUT I'M A WITCH.
AND RIDING THE WIND TOGETHER WITH THE CROWS...
...IS A SIMPLE TASK.
OOOH.
YOU CAUGHT UP WITH US THIS FAST...?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PRIEST AND THE DISCIPLE?!
THEY WERE TENACIOUS ...


ON THREE, I'M GOING TO GET THE WATER AND THEN WE'RE GOING TO DIVE OFF THE CLIFF TOGETHER.
ARE YOU INSANE?!
HOW COULD I LEAVE HIM NOW ?!
DOING THIS IS MUCH SANER...
...THAN GIVING IN TO THE WISHES OF AN EVIL WITCH.

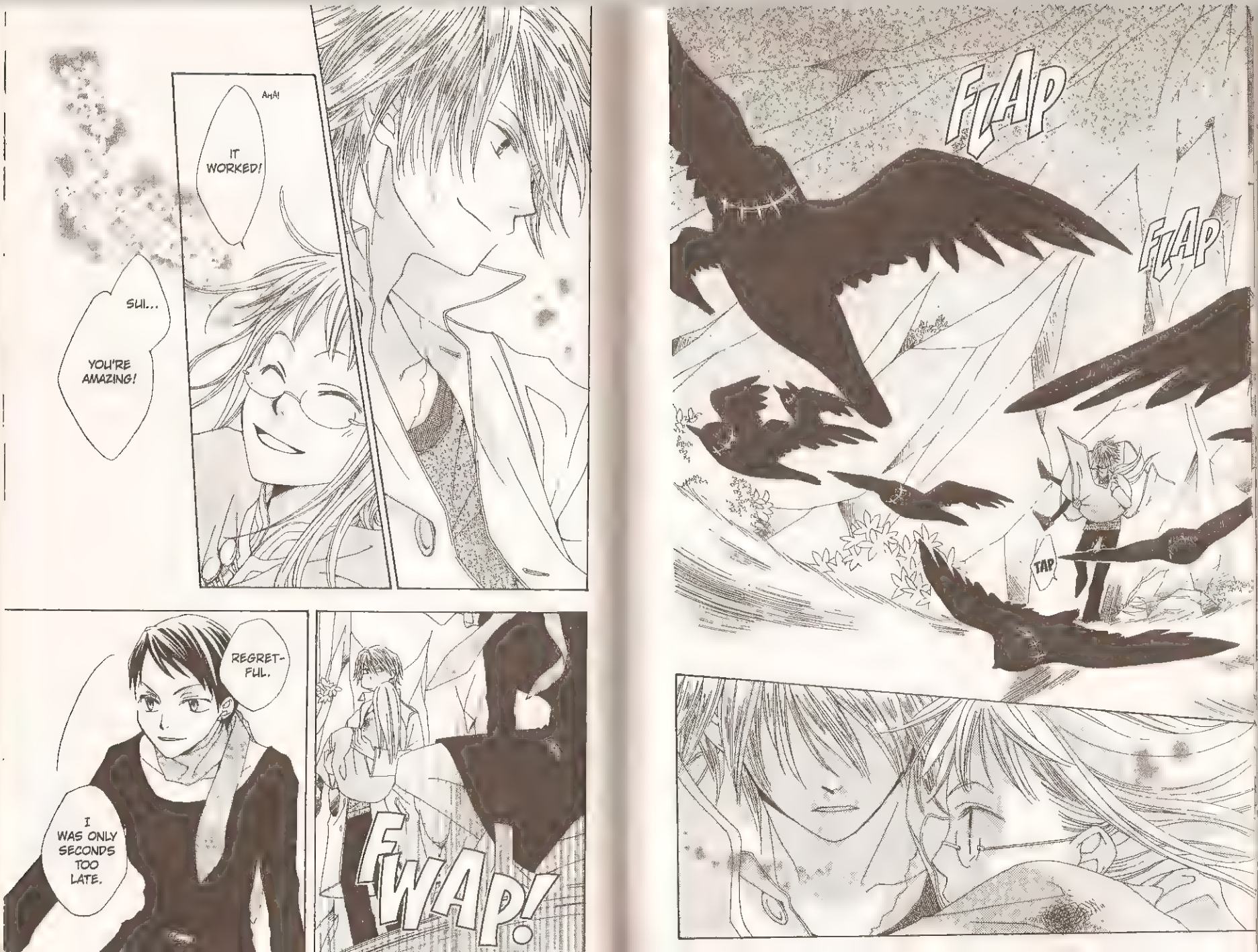
...THE ROOT OF THE EVIL HAS NO RIGHT TO ACT SO SUPERIOR.
I'M FROM AROUND HERE, SO YES, I KNOW. ONE FALL BUYS A TICKET TO THE OTHER "OTHER SIDE".
YOU'VE GOT NOWHERE TO RUN.
DID YOU KNOW, THERE'S A PRECIPICE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT SPRING?
JINRO ISN'T THE KIND OF PERSON WHO WOULD THOUGHTLESSLY DRAG SOMEBODY ELSE INTO HIS PROBLEMS.
THAT'S ONE THING HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT.
HOW ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF AN APPLE? IF YOU FELL OFF A CLIFF, WOULD YOU GO TO SOME KIND OF AFTERLIFE?
GOOD.
...BUT, EVEN SO, HE NEEDED MY HELP SO BADLY, HE DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE EXCEPT TO INVOLVE ME.
HE FRETTED WHEN I GOT HURT...
...MY ADULT FORM...

HUM
SWISH

SWISH
ONE...
...TWO...
...THREE!
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
DRINK IT!
SPLASH

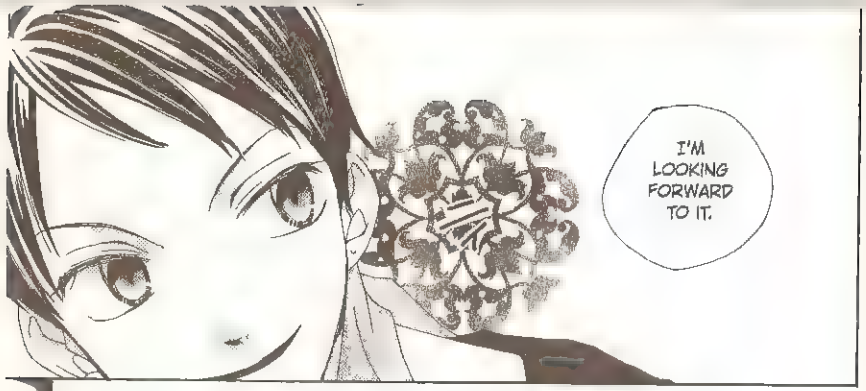

SHOOOO
VANISH!!

A STAR INSIDE A CIRCLE...
BLUE INK...
A DAGGER FLICKED BY A SNAKE'S TONGUE ...
THE NAILS OF A WITCH...
I CALL FIRE OUT OF THE EASTERN SKY...
...TO BANISH THE DARKNESS WITHIN YOU!
BURN, DARK CURSE! BURN AND VANISH FOREVER!
HUMMM


AHA!
IT WORKED!
SUI...
YOU'RE AMAZING!
REGRET-FUL.
I WAS ONLY SECONDS TOO LATE.
FWAP!
FLAP
FLAP
TAP

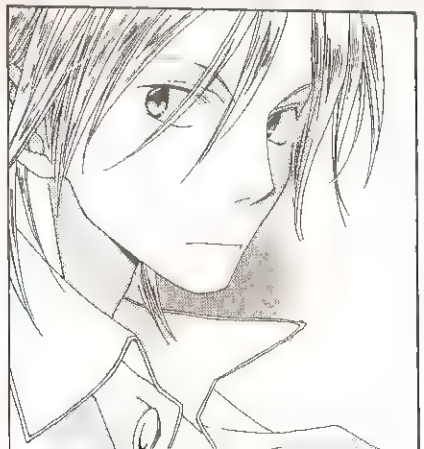
GET BACK HERE!
JINRO...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
THAT'S...
...NO HUMAN!
DASH DASH DASH DASH DASH
KYAAA! HOW SCARY! ♡
EXCESS BAGGAGE
GRAB
THE MARK OF THE SPELL!

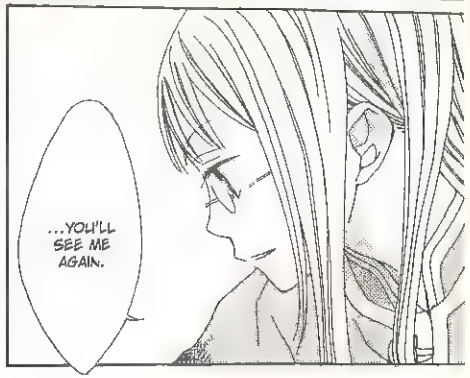
WAIT A SECOND!
FIRST, THERE WAS THE SPEED WITH WHICH YOU CAUGHT UP TO US, NOW A NIMBLE LEAP OFF A CLIFF? I DON'T THINK THAT WAS ANY HUMAN FEAT...
EH?
YOU COULD MAKE A SOFT LANDING, TOO?!
CRUNCH...
...BUT YOU ALSO SAW THROUGH ME.
NOT ONLY DID YOU NEATLY BREAK FREE OF YOUR BONDS...
AH.
I SEE.
WHIZZZ
FOR NOW, I THINK I'D BETTER BEAT A HASTY RETREAT!
OH, NO, YOU DON'T!
...THE J.G IS UP?


I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

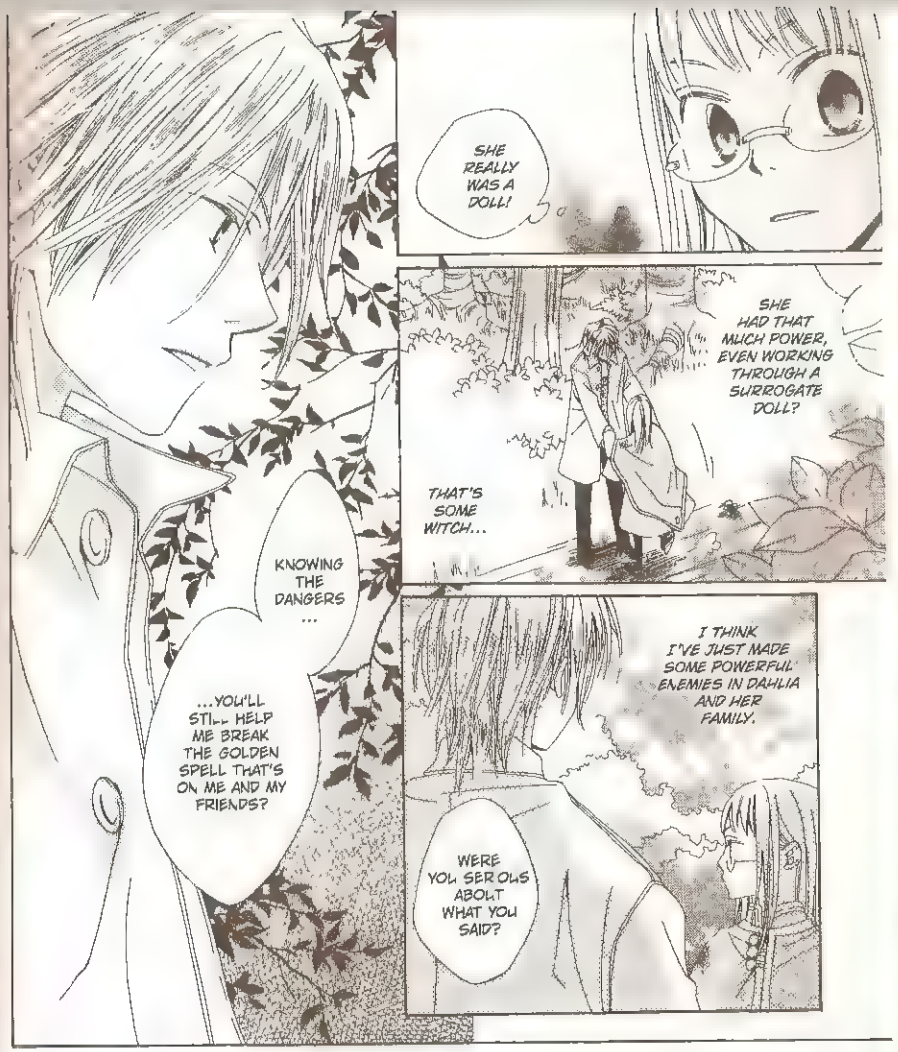
SWO
YOU MUST BE PLEASED AS WELL...
... JINRO.
THAT'S ENOUGH OUT OF YOU!
OSH
FWAP

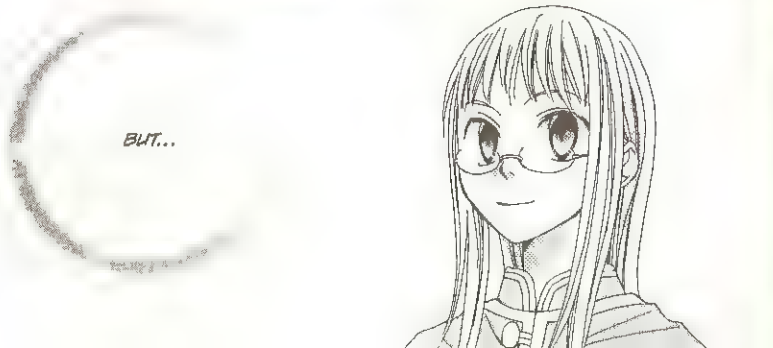
WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN? SISTER SUI?
I'LL BE SURE TO REMEMBER IT.
THIS ISN'T THE REAL DAHLIA!
IT'S JUST A LOOKALIKE ...
...PUPPET!
WITCH, THAT'S FOR ME TO DISCUSS WITH HER LATER! NO ONE ASKED YOU TO BRING IT UP!
PERHAPS WE'LL MEET AGAIN.
UNLESS THIS IS THE LAST TIME YOU AID JINRO?




...YOU'LL SEE ME AGAIN.

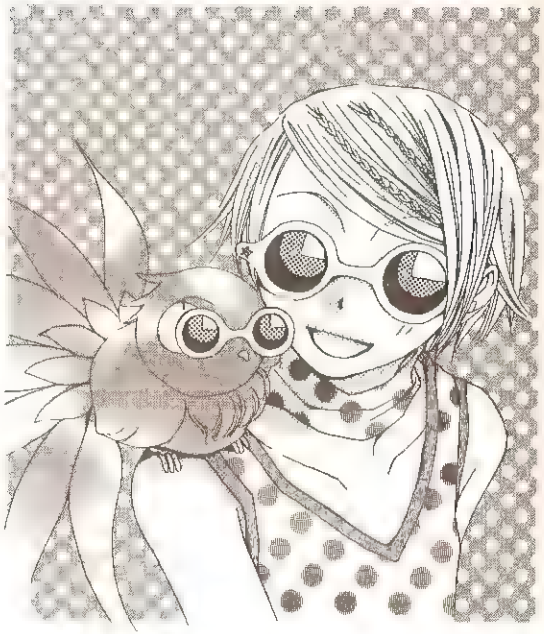
SHH...
IF YOU'LL HAVE ME...
...I WANT TO DO SOMETHING.
I'LL BREAK THE SPELL.
FROM NOW ON, I'M PROTECTING YOU.
BUT I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU GET HURT AGAIN.
...I'M MOVED.
WHEN I SEE THE SINCERITY IN THOSE EYES...
WAAA!
WHOOP!
HOLD ON TO ME!
THOSE CROWS CLIPPED YOUR LEG, REMEMBER?


SHE REALLY WAS A DOLL!
SHE HAD THAT MUCH POWER, EVEN WORKING THROUGH A SURROGATE DOLL?
THAT'S SOME WITCH...
KNOWING THE DANGERS ...
...YOU'LL STILL HELP ME BREAK THE GOLDEN SPELL THAT'S ON ME AND MY FRIENDS?
I THINK I'VE JUST MADE SOME POWERFUL ENEMIES IN DAHLIA AND HER FAMILY.
WERE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID?


BUT...

PREVIEWS IN ONE SWOOP

THIS TIME, BECAUSE OF THE WAY THE PAGES WERE SET UP, I GATHERED UP ALL THE PREVIEW CUTS AND PUT THEM HERE IN THE BACK.



EPISODE 7'S PREVIEW CUT

I WANT TO RESEARCH HOW TO MAKE THE SUN GLINTING OFF SUNGLASSES LOOK COOL.

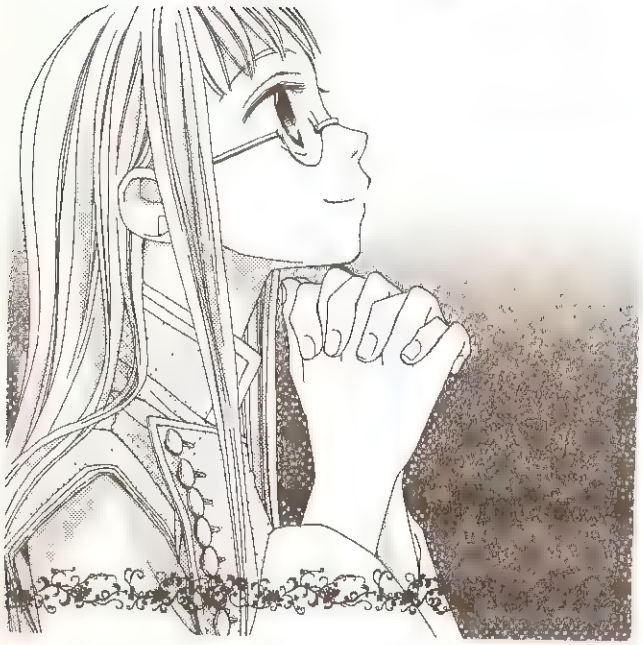
EPISODE 8'S PREVIEW CUT

I WANTED HER TO GET ACROSS THE CONCEPT OF "JUICY." I REALLY LIKE THIS DRAWING.

CHUCKLE
AND THEN...
THRILLED
WHAT ELSE CAN I DO FOR YOU? UM...
AFTER THIS IS ALL OVER, I COULD SEND YOU A LIFELONG SUPPLY OF APPLES.
ANYWAY, I'M GLAD YOU'RE ON BOARD.
...I WANT TO...
...SEE YOUR SMILING FACE EVEN MORE.
THEY'RE EXTREMELY HEALTHY!
REALLY EAT NO APPLES THREE MEALS A DAY IS THE WAY TO GO!
AHHHH!
THE APPLE FAMILY: THE END

EPISODE 11'S PREVIEW CUT

THE THEME HERE WAS "YOYO IN THE SPRING". YOU'RE IN THE SPOTLIGHT, YOYO!



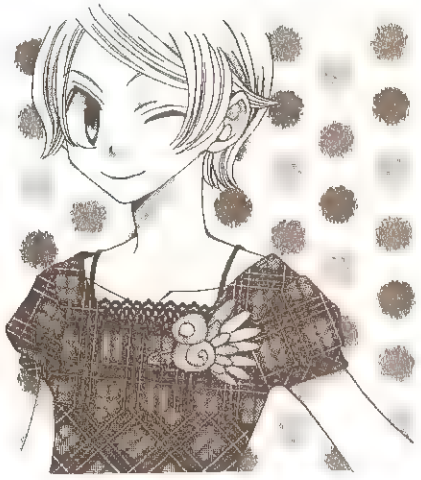
APPLE FAMILY'S PREVIEW CUT

EPISODE 9'S PREVIEW CUT

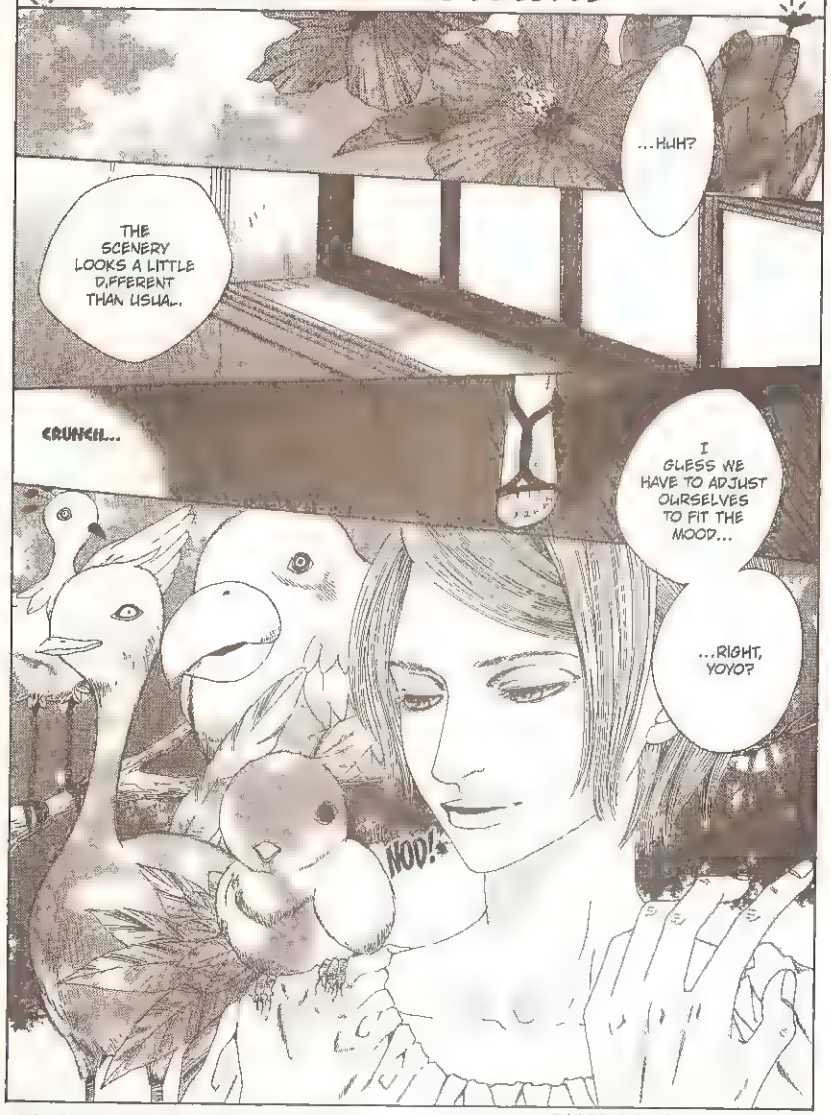
HE CAME OUT SLIGHTLY CHILDLIKE HERE. HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN A BAD MOOD. I KNOW IT'S JUST A PREVIEW CUT, BUT IT'S HARD TO GET HIM TO SMILE AT THE "CAMERA" WHEN HE'S ALONE.

EPISODE 10'S PREVIEW CUT

I WAS GOING FOR A MODERN GIRL TYPE OF LOOK...

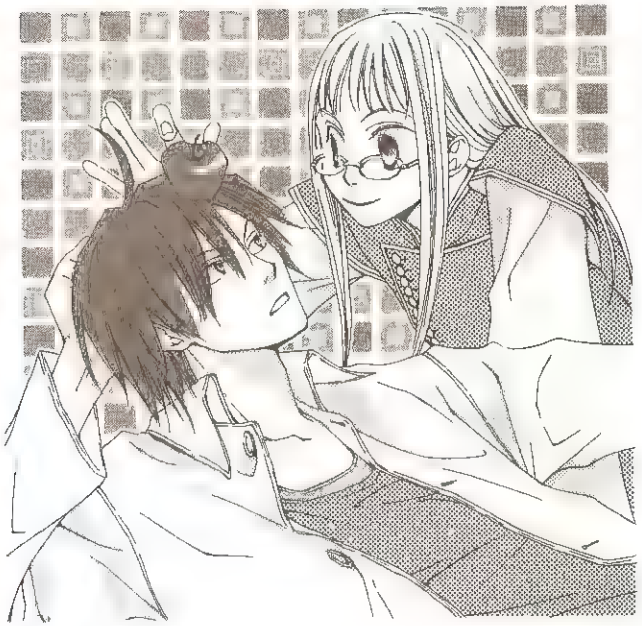


THE ECOLOGY OF BIRDS, ETC. PHOTOREALISTIC PALETTE


...HUH?
THE SCENERY LOOKS A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN USUAL...
CRUNCH...
I GUESS WE HAVE TO ADJUST OURSELVES TO FIT THE MOOD...
...RIGHT, YOYO?
MOO!

BIRDS ARE SCARY, AREN'T THEY...?

BASED ON AN IDEA BY AKANE OGURA. THANKS, AKANE-CHAN!

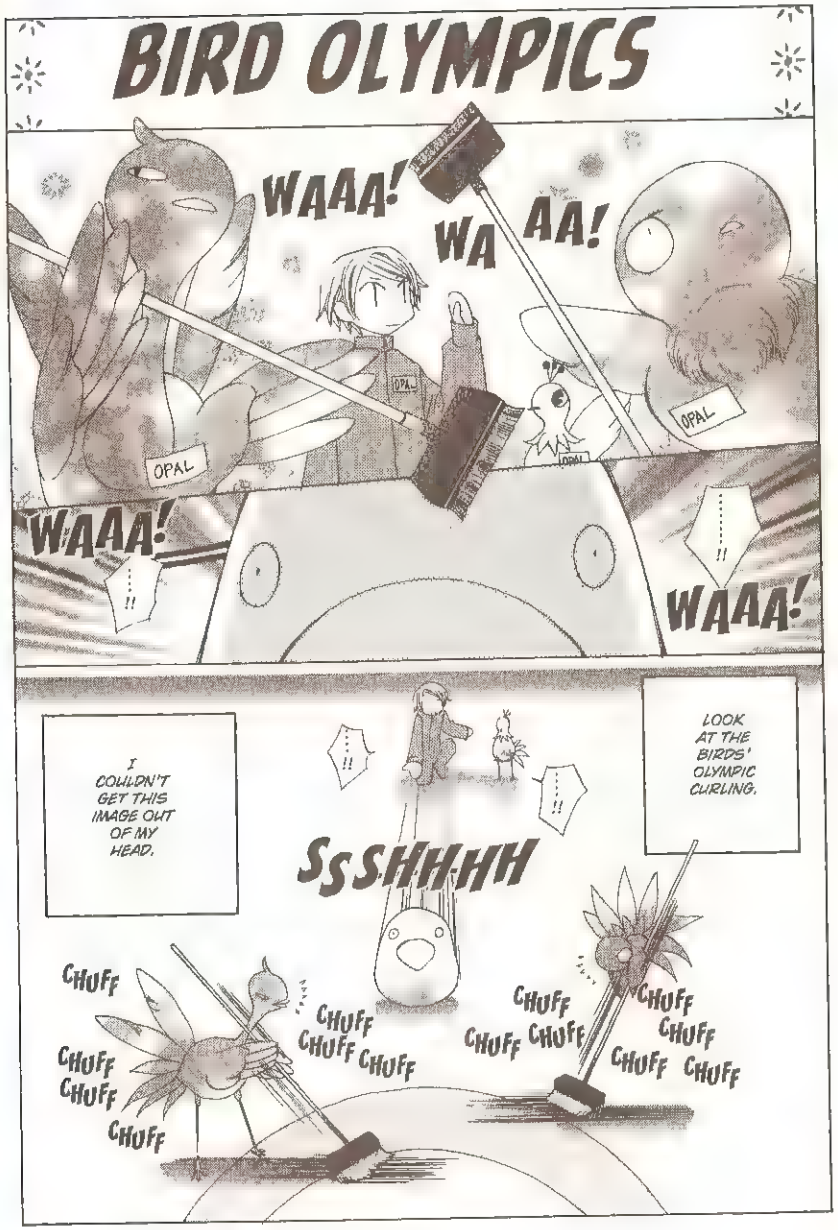


THE PREVIEW CUT I DIDN'T USE FOR APPLE FAMILY

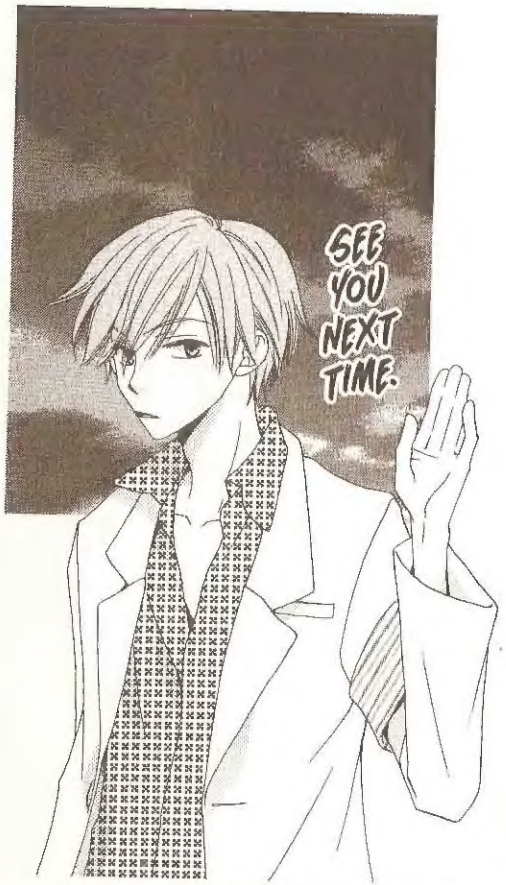
THE WAY THIS CAME OUT DIDN'T QUITE MATCH TO WHAT I WAS GOING FOR, SO I FILED IT AWAY. IF I WOULD'VE GONE WITH THIS ONE, JINRO'S HAIR WOULD'VE BEEN RED.

I DID THIS AROUND THE SAME TIME I MADE "RECIPE FOR GERTRUDE." I KNEW THAT I HAVE A THING FOR CHARACTER NAMES ENDING IN "E," BUT QUITE A FEW ALSO END IN "O."

PREVIEWS IN ONE SWOOP: THE END


BIRD OLYMPICS
WAAA!
WA
AA!
OPAL
OPAL
WAAA!
!!
WAAA!
I COULDN'T GET THIS IMAGE OUT OF MY HEAD.
!!
!!
LOOK AT THE BIRDS' OLYMPIC CURLING.
SSSHHHHH
CHUFF
CHUFF
CHUFF
CHUFF
CHUFF
CHUFF
CHUFF
CHUFF
CHUFF
CHUFF
CHUFF
CHUFF

DR. GUELL COMES FROM A NORTHERN COUNTRY
I COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT THIS IDEA EITHER.
HUH...
THAT SEEMS A LITTLE WEIRD, WEARING SHOES WITH BLADES ON THE BOTTOM TO GO SLIDING ON THE TOP OF FROZEN WATER...
DID YOU DO IT?
OH
DR. GUELL...
IT'S CALLED A SKATING RINK.
LOOK AT THAT GIANT ICE!
SWISH
UH-HUH.
EVERY DAY, WHEN THE NEIGHBORHOOD LAKE FROZE OVER.
IT'S FANTASTIC!
DON'T YOU THINK?
HUH.
SPIN...



THE ECOLOGY OF BIRDS, ETC.: THE END

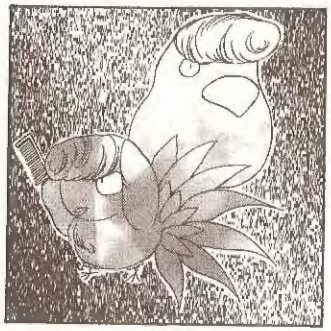
DR. CUELL COMES FROM A NORTHERN COUNTRY 2

WELL, YEAH...BUT I HAVEN'T SPOKEN IT IN A NUMBER OF YEARS...
WOW!
I WANNA HEAR YOUR NATIVE LANGUAGE!
BY THE WAY...
...SINCE YOU COME FROM UP NORTH...
...YOU CAN SPEAK A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE, RIGHT?
SHAKE
YOU'RE NOT GONNA BE SATISFIED UNTIL I SPEAK IT, ARE YOU?
KOFF
VERY WELL, CELLO. YOU ALWAYS EXPRESS AN INTEREST IN THE "NORTHERN COUNTRY" WHERE I'M FROM, BUT I TELL YOU, IT'S FREEZING UP THERE!
THE "NORTHERN COUNTRY" HE'S FROM...IT'S IN THE JAPANESE ARCHIPELAGO?!
IT SNOWS EVERY DAY AND IT'S TOUGH JUST GOING OUTSIDE... BUT I GUESS BRAVING THE WEATHER IS WRITTEN ON THE DNA OF EVERY NATIVE OF HOKKAIDO.

NO.
DATE 2005 - 2006

EPISODE 10

WHEN I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH, ONE OF MY TEACHERS SAID, "FOUR PASS, FIVE FAIL." NOW I UNDERSTAND WELL HOW THERE ARE TIMES WHEN, EVEN IF YOU'RE DEPRIVED OF SLEEP, YOU HAVE TO CHAIN YOURSELF TO THE DESK. DURING CLASS, THERE WERE MANY OCCASIONS WHEN I FOUGHT OFF SLEEP. MY NOTEBOOKS FULL OF NONSENSICAL "WORM WRITING" ARE PROOF OF THAT. THESE DAYS, I KNOW WHEN I'M BEING ASSAULTED BY SLEEP WHEN I START DRAWING A PALM TREE LEAF AND IT TURNS INTO CELLO'S HAIRSTYLE.



EPISODE 11

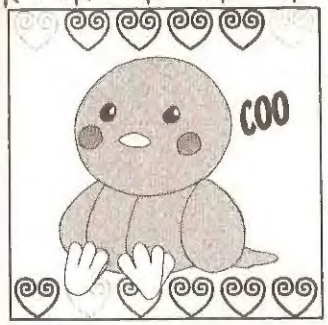
I KNOW IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP HEALTHY, BUT WHILE WORKING ON THIS EPISODE, I'M ASHAMED TO SAY, I HAD A FEVER. I SLAPPED THE DESIGNS ON THE VERY LAST PANEL WITH A 101 DEGREE FEVER, THINKING OF FAMOUS COMEDIANS TO KEEP ME GOING. ALSO, I WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER I MADE DR. GUELL'S FOREHEAD TOO BROAD.

APPLE FAMILY

JINRO IS A LITTLE WILD; ACTUALLY, I WANTED HIM TO LOOK SLIGHTLY EVIL. IN MY IDEA NOTEBOOK, I JOTTED DOWN "EVIL WOLF" AND "TOUGH TO INTRODUCE TO YOUR FATHER". WHEN I READ IT NOW, I CAN'T HELP THINKING THAT I SHOULD'VE HAD HIM IN THE STORY MORE AS HIS ADULT SELF.

NO.
DATE 2005 - 2006

KUSAKAWA NOTES



EPISODE 7 ABOUT EACH EPISODE

SMALL ANIMALS ARE A LITTLE UNGAINLY, BUT I LIKE THEM FOR BEING CUTE, SO THAT'S WHAT I WAS GOING FOR WITH THE TRIPLETS' STUFFED ANIMALS. I DREW THE DRAWING AT LEFT INTENDING TO MAKE IT CUTE, BUT IT CAME OUT SO "EH" THAT I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY ABOUT IT. IF IT'S NOT MY "TYPE", I JUST CAN'T GET INTERESTED IN IT.

EPISODE 8

I WANTED CELLO TO HAVE MORE FRIENDS, SO I INTRODUCED FENNE. AT FIRST, I WANTED HIS NAME TO START WITH A "FU" SOUND, BUT THEN THE HERB "FENNEL" SPRANG TO MIND. AND WHENEVER I THINK OF THAT, I THINK OF THE SLIGHTLY SIMILAR-SOUNDING "PENNE". I LIKE PENNE.

EPISODE 9

CELLO'S BIRTHDAY IS ON 1/23, WHILE DR. GUELL'S IS 7/2. THAT'S WHAT I DECIDED, ANYWAY. WHEN CREATING CHARACTER PROFILES, I NEVER DECIDE ON THE SPECIFICS LIKE THAT, SO DOING THIS STORY WAS WHEN I NAILED DOWN THEIR B-DAYS. AFTER THAT, I CHECKED A HOROSCOPE BOOK REGARDING THOSE TWO DAYS JUST FOR FUN.

SELF COSPLAY MANGA COMMERCIAL

PARALLEL PARALLEL
I'M NOT A FRIVOLOUS MAN...
...BUT WHENEVER I MEET YOU...
...WORK TAKES A BACK SEAT.
REALLY?
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAY, "KYAAA", CELLO. ♡
...BUT I'VE GOT ANOTHER MANGA SERIES GOING AT THE SAME TIME, "TWO FLOWERS FOR THE DRAGON".
THIS IS THE MANGA KNOWN AS "PALETTE OF 12 SECRET COLORS"...

LUCIEN (16) IS SHAKUYA'S FIRST FIANCÉ. HE'S GOT THE HANDICAP OF HAVING SPENT THE LAST FIVE YEARS WANDERING IN THE DESERT.
THIS IS SO UNCOMFORTABLE...
LOVE
LOVE
LOVE
EAGERLY WHISPERS OF LOVE, BUT BEING WHISPERED TO ABOUT LOVE IS HER WEAK POINT.
KUWAN, 26, IS SHAKUYA'S FIANCÉ #2. AN EXPERT SWORDSMAN FOR WHOM IT'S SIMPLE TO MAKE SHAKUYA GO "KYAAA! KYAAA!" IN DELIGHT.
THE MAIN CHARACTER, SHAKUYA, IS A 15 YEAR OLD MAIDEN WITH A FLOWER TATTOO ON EACH HAND... AND WHEN SHE TURNS INTO A DRAGON, HER CLOTHES GET RIPPED TO SHREDS.
I'M A LADY-IN-WAITING!
I'M A COP!
FRIED RICE!

"TWO FLOWERS FOR THE DRAGON" IS (PRETTY MUCH AS DEPICTED HERE) A ROMANTIC DRAGON FANTASY.

END OF PALETTE OF 12 SECRET COLORS VOLUME 3

NO.

DATE 2005 - 2006

I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO ANSWER YOUR LETTERS, BUT IF YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE YOUR OPINION, BY ALL MEANS, WRITE TO THIS ADDRESS:

NARI KUSAKAWA
C/O CMX
888 PROSPECT STREET SUITE 240
LA JOLLA, CA 92037

MY WEBSITE, WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT MY WORK, ETC, IS:
[LOTUS POSITION]
HYPERLINK "HTTP://LOTUS.HER.JP/"
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I WANT TO THANK: ALL OF YOU FOR READING THIS; MY EDITOR, THE PUBLISHING COMPANY AND THE STORES FOR STOCKING THIS; MY FAMILY, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS; AND THE LIQUOR STORE THAT LETS ME MAKE MY COPIES. I APPRECIATE ALL OF YOU.
MAY 2005

2006. 04

KUSAKAWA NOTES: THE END

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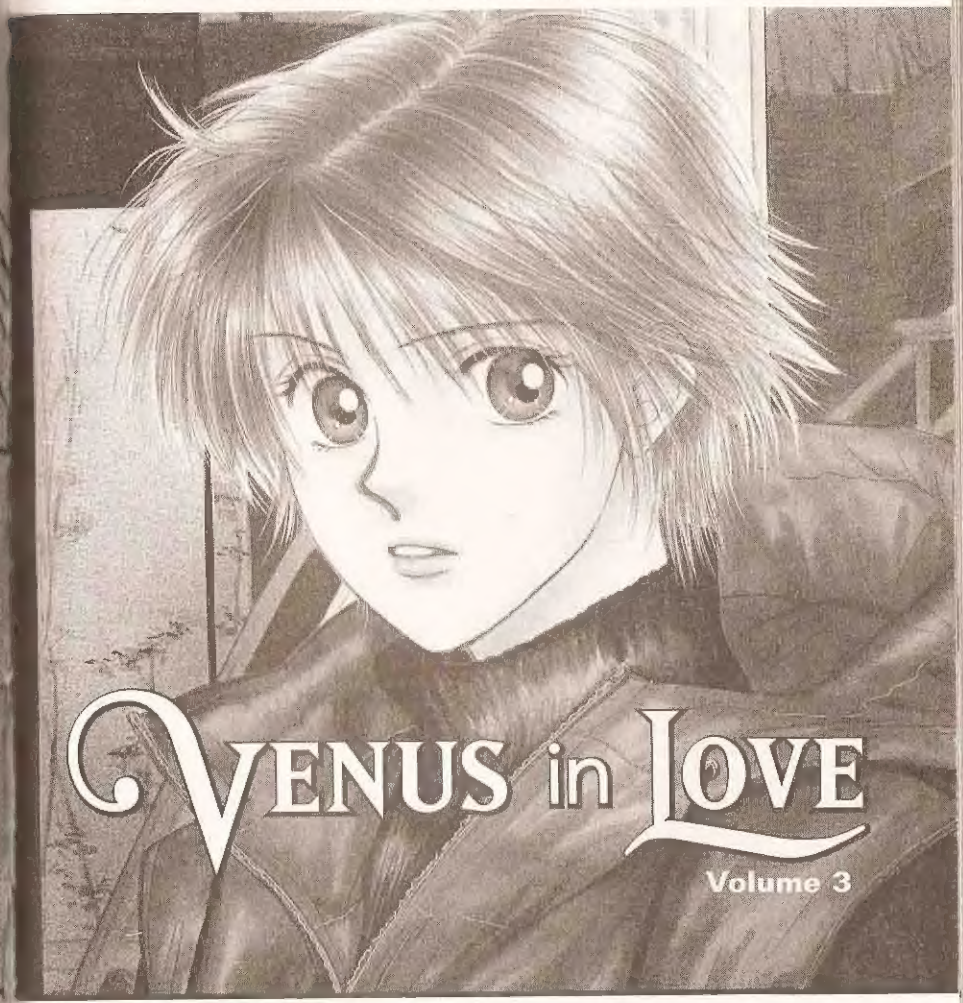
IS IT TOO LATE FOR SUZUNA TO MAKE HER MOVE? AVAILABLE NOW!



By Yuki Nakaji. Suzuna's had her heart set on Fukami but she's been afraid to share her feelings. Now he's out with another girl, and they seem to be turning into a steady couple. Suzuna finds herself spending more time with Eichi and a surprising development leaves the two of them with confused feelings about each other. Just when Suzuna thought things couldn't get more complicated...they do!

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